



RACING
REPORT
OF



BONFIRE NIGHT

Putting a bit of sparkle into life

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SATURDAY REVIEW

The power and the glory of Cleopatra

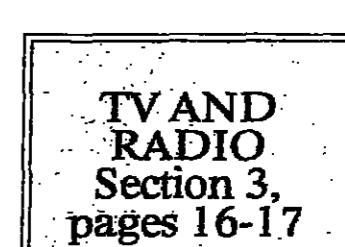
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Dark side of the dreaming spires

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THE TIMES



No. 64,478

SATURDAY OCTOBER 31 1992

50p

Major wins back waverers with Maastricht-free motion

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major's hopes of isolating his hard-core Euro-rebels were boosted last night as the government's carefully-crafted motion for Wednesday's Maastricht debate began to bring wavering back to the fold.

The motion, which calls for the treaty ratification legislation to proceed without mentioning Maastricht, spread confusion among the sceptics, but it was still clear that the Conservative whips face a struggle to be sure of victory.

Labour intends to put the rebels on the spot by tabling an amendment proposing that the bill should not be brought back until after the Edinburgh summit meeting — one of the main demands of the Conservative right-wing 92 group — and there were signs last night that Mr Major may not, after all, be able to count on the votes of all the Liberal Democrats.

Paddy Ashdown has told the prime minister that he would support motion making progress towards ratification, but the party president

that this House notes that the European Communities (Amendment) Bill received a majority of 244 at its second reading and was committed to a committee of the whole House;

Acknowledges that the House was promised a debate prior to the committee stage;

Notes that the Danish Government's intentions have now been clarified;

Recalls the Lisbon Council's commitment to subsidiarity, the Birmingham Council's agreement on a framework for decisions to implement that principle and the practical steps already taken to achieve it;

Recognises that the UK should play a leading role in the development of the European Community to achieve a free market Europe open to accession by other European democracies, thereby promoting employment, prosperity and investment into the UK;

And invites Her Majesty's Government to proceed with the Bill in order that the House should consider its provisions in further detail.

Charles Kennedy raised doubts yesterday when he described the motion as a contrivance. He said: "We have made clear all along, if it is a confidence vote we will be voting against the government. But if it is a general motion to bring forward progress on Maastricht we will vote positively for Maastricht. We will have to wait and see what the government now chooses to put on this."

The party's Scottish conference will today debate a motion calling on its 20 MPs to side with Labour next week, but senior party sources still expected the vast majority to back the government.

Even if the Liberal Democrats do vote with Mr Major, Tory rebel organisers appear well placed to push the government close. To avoid the possibility of defeat, the rebels must be kept below 30 — but 22 Tories voted against the bill at its second reading, and a survey by The Times found that at least six more were intending to vote against the government this time. Several others had yet to decide. The position was clouded, however, by signs that some of the hardline 22 might be having second thoughts because of Mr Major's Thursday night appeal for unity and the cunning wording of the motion.

The motion, which government business managers took 24 hours to draft, avoids a ringing endorsement of the treaty, but it represents a clear mandate for pressing on with ratification. One rebel said last night: "We are in danger of being conned. With Labour on our side, this may be our only chance of defeating the bill. The government will use victory next week as a carte blanche to push on regardless, and yet we seem to be weakening. It is fiendishly clever."

Sir George Gardiner, Tory MP for Reigate and chairman of the 92 group, said: "This motion is so general one wonders why it was necessary to table a substantive motion at all." Sir George, who had been expected to vote against, is now likely to abstain or support the government.

Labour said the test for the Tory dissidents was whether they could vote against its amendment, which was central to their demands. George Robertson, the party's European affairs spokesman who described the motion as "highly defensive", said Labour would invite Tory rebels to back the amendment but he indicated that he did not expect to defeat the government. "I think that we expect Tory rebellions to fade because that is the experience of the last 13 years, but they are going to have to eat a lot of humble pie in the process," he told BBC Radio 4's *The World at One*.

William Cash, MP for Stafford and one of the leading dissidents, said he was totally opposed to the Maastricht Treaty and the bill to ratify it, but added that he would not decide how to vote on the motion until Monday. He acknowledged that the motion was "a very adroit and clever piece of drafting".

Mr Major meanwhile declared: "We are going to win next week." The dissidents, he said, "do not represent the majority of the Conservative party and they don't represent the majority of people in this country".

Weekend pressure, page 2
Diary, page 12

US polls point to close race

FROM MARTIN FLITCHER
IN WASHINGTON

A BATCH of conflicting new polls put President Bush between one and ten points behind Bill Clinton yesterday, setting the scene for a frantic last three days before next Tuesday's vote.

A CNN-USA Today tracking poll had Mr Clinton on 41 per cent and Mr Bush on 40, and a Newsweek poll had figures of 41 and 39 respectively.

Those polls focused on likely voters, but other surveys of all adults showed wider margins. The ABC News tracking poll put Mr Clinton nine points ahead.

An NBC-Wall Street Journal poll had a ten-point gap, dropping to six among those who vote regularly. All showed Ross Perot's support falling to between 13 and 16 points.

State surveys show Mr Bush closing on Mr Clinton in key battlegrounds such as Michigan, and he has edged fractionally ahead in Florida and Texas, which he has won.

Campaign trail, page 10
Diary, page 12

Twenty miles of misery as refugees flee Bosnian ruins

FROM TIM JUDAH AND DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE

THOUSANDS of refugees from the central Bosnian town of Jajce were yesterday fleeing one of the most dramatic and catastrophic defeats in 16 months of war in the former Yugoslavia. A column of humanity 20 miles long trailed under fire out of the ruins of the town, which "does not exist any more", according to a Bosnian official.

Under siege by Serb forces since the summer, much of Jajce finally fell on Thursday. But fighting was reported to be continuing yesterday. The number of refugees heading south-east towards Travnik and Vitez is said to be between 15,000 and 30,000. In Geneva, United Nations officials said emergency aid was being sent.

Serb forces wanted to take Jajce, which had a Serb population of barely 10 per cent, because they need to control its hydroelectric plants, which supply power to Serb-held northern Bosnia, Croatia and Muslims in control of the generating facilities cut off.

Milovan Miljanovic, vice-



British oak: Baroness Thatcher plants the sapling at Chartwell yesterday

Thatcher defends heart of oak against EC

By ROBIN STACEY

BARONESS Thatcher had a dig at an obscure European Commission directive as she planted an oak sapling in the grounds of Winston Churchill's former home yesterday.

She was praising the National Trust for its efforts in replacing trees lost in the hurricane five years ago when, deviating slightly from her prepared speech, she remarked: "I have heard that the European Commission, in a draft directive, has stated that Euro-furniture may not be made of English oak because it is too knotty. How outrageous."

Few of the audience would have guessed she was referring to a little-known EC regulation seeking to halt the sale of English oak seeds because German and Italian varieties have fewer knots and nobs.

The former prime minister's joke was closer to home than she may have guessed, as the logo of the National Trust, the owners of Chartwell, whose dignitaries made up most of the audience, is a sprig of oak groaning with acorns.

Lady Thatcher agreed to plant the oak sapling in 1987, when she was prime minister, as a symbol of regeneration after the ravages of the great storm. For five years the sapling has been nursed in a Chartwell greenhouse awaiting yesterday's ceremony.

Diary, page 12

Patten seeks more power over schools

By MATTHEW D'ANCONA, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Patten, the education secretary, yesterday presented his 200-page education bill, the longest in parliamentary history, and said it would establish a new framework for schools, raise classroom standards and improve choice for parents and pupils.

The bill, which will give him 44 new powers, would smooth the path of schools from local authority control to grant-maintained status and enact the reforms envisaged in July's white paper, he said.

The bill, due for its second reading on November 9, proposes a new central agency to distribute funds to opted-out schools which will assume other powers as the grant-maintained sector expands.

Sub-standard schools will be taken over by outside managers appointed by Mr Patten and prepared for opting out or closure, and a council will be set up to monitor national curriculum tests and syllabuses.

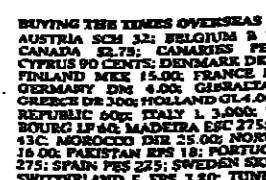
Mr Patten was immediately criticised for having failed to take note of outside submissions.

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Whips redouble efforts as fresh defections offset signs of faltering rebellion

Tory rebels must survive long weekend of pressure

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

CONSERVATIVE MPs intending to hold out and vote against the government over Maastricht on Wednesday face a weekend of pressure in their constituencies and a further bout of lobbying by the prime minister and his colleagues early next week.

Signs yesterday that some of the potential rebels were returning to the fold will have encouraged the whips and party officials to step up their pressure to isolate the diehards. Their objective will be to reduce the rebellion to the point where it will no longer be necessary to rely on the support of the Liberal Democrats to avoid defeat.

As usual the tactics of the whips will depend on the individual concerned. Gentle persuasion will be applied to some; the heavy hand to others. Already there were allegations yesterday by some MPs that officials from Conservative central office had been ringing local associations to try to bring MPs into line.

Surveys of the potential rebels indicated clearly that the government still has some work to do to be sure of success next week. If the 22 MPs who voted against the bill on second reading were to hold firm — and there were indications yesterday that one or two of them might be wavering — it would require only a further nine Tories to vote against the government to take it to the brink of defeat.

By last night it appeared that the rebels could get uncomfortably close to that total despite the careful wording of the government motion. Six MPs who did not vote against the government on second reading are now firmly expected to do so. They are Warren Hawksley (Halesowen & Stourbridge), Peter Griffiths (Portsmouth N), Peter Fry (Wellingborough), John Wilkinson (Ruislip-Northwood), Barry Legg (Milton Keynes SW) and Bill Walker (Tayside N).

The 22 who voted against the second reading are: Rupert Allason (Torbay), John Biffen (Shropshire N), Sir Richard Body (Holland with Boston), Nick Budget (Wolverhampton SW), John Butcher (Coventry SW), John Carlisle (Luton N), Michael Cartiss (Gt Yarmouth), William Cash (Stafford), James Cran (Beverley), Christopher Gill (Ludlow), Theresa

Gorman (Billericay), Harry Greenway (Ealing N), Andrew Hunter (Basingstoke), Tony Marlow (Northampton N), David Porter (Waveney), Richard Shepherd (Aldridge Brownhills), Sir Trevor Skeet (Bedfordshire N), Michael Spice (Worcestershire S), Sir Teddy Taylor (Southend E), Ann Winterton (Congleton and Nicholás Winterton (Macclesfield). Mr Allason is now expected to vote with.

Others who could join the rebel camp are Iain Duncan-Smith (Chingford), Bernard Jenkin (Colchester N), Walter Sweeney (Vale of Glamorgan), John Whittingdale (Colchester S and Maldon), Michael Lord (Suffolk Central), Vivian Bandal (Ilford N), and Roger Knapman (Stroud).

Those who have been encouraged to switch behind the government by Mr Major's address to the 1922 committee and by the wording of the motion include Phil Gallie (Ayrl), David Evans (Welwyn & Hatfield), Den Dovet (Chorley), Michael Fabricant (Staffs Mid) and John Greenway (Ryedale). Others such as Sir George Gardiner (Reigate), chairman of the '92 group, are now more likely to abstain or vote for the government.

All the sceptics will face something of a dilemma over the Labour amendment. This will propose simply that the bill should not be brought back to the Commons until after the Edinburgh summit — one of the key demands of the '92 group.

Although the mood of government business managers was one of growing optimism the arithmetic still suggested a tight finish. The Opposition forces are expected to be made up of 267 Labour votes, 12 Unionists, four SDLP MPs, four Welsh nationalists and three Scottish nationalists. A total of 390. If 30 Tory votes were added to that total it would come to 320.

The theoretical Tory vote of 334 could be swelled by 19 Liberal Democrats, and Sir James Kilfedder, the Ulster Popular Unionist for North Down, taking it up to 354. If the notional 30 Tory rebel votes were subtracted the Conservative tally would be 324, giving the government a majority in low single figures.

Major's motion, page 1
Diary, page 12



Danes set stage for war of nerves on text

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

DANISH MPs yesterday approved their government's list of requested changes to the EC's Maastricht treaty — and lit the touchpaper for an explosive struggle at the Edinburgh EC summit in December.

To the relief of Europe's recession-battered governments, the Danish prime minister, Poul Schluter, has fashioned a position facing both ways at once. He wants, as he says, to change the treaty without amending it.

Danish voters will next year be asked to reverse last June's referendum, which threw out Maastricht, and must be offered something "new". However, no other EC government wants to contemplate the complications of renegotiation.

The Danish foreign minister, Uffe Elleman-Jensen, is due in London next Tuesday to explore ways of squaring this legal and diplomatic circle. However, awkward reminders of the difficulties keep popping up. A leaked Foreign Office memo this week noted that snags were coming into focus and Jacques Delors, the European Commission president, reminded everyone that the EC had agreed that there would be no tinkering with a

word of the treaty. The Danes could have helpful footnotes, he said, but no more.

M Delors manages to upset the Danes almost every time he speaks about them, and his advisers' indiscreet speculation over small states' likely loss of influence in the EC of the late 1990s helped to tip Danes against the treaty.

Yesterday, Mr Schluter reported that governments, and not M Delors, decide this issue.

In truth, M Delors was doing no more than underlining an inconvenient truth, and also voicing the thoughts that the federalist majority of governments are too timid to voice. No state can be forced to sign an unwanted treaty. M Delors said, but then neither can any country "have a right of veto so enormous" that it can stop others going ahead.

Yet, legally, if one state fails to ratify, Maastricht is void.

The stage is set for a war of nerves that will fray tempers all the way to Edinburgh. Ten EC governments want Britain to ratify as soon as possible so that the EC can turn to intimidating the Danes into abandoning any idea of reopening the treaty.

Major puzzles press in Copenhagen

AS OTHERS SEE US

A weekly look at how the world views Britain

FROM CHRISTOPHER FOLLETT IN COPENHAGEN

WITH Mr Uffe Elleman-Jensen, the Danish foreign minister, due in London on Tuesday for talks with British leaders, the Danish press has been stressing the key role the British EC presidency holds in helping the Danes out of their Maastricht dilemma.

Doubts have arisen about London's real position. The Copenhagen daily *Politiken* writes of "unrest" in London, citing the leaking earlier this week of a confidential British foreign office document stating that the Danish compromise will be difficult for EC member states to accept.

"Britain is the EC nation with the best understanding of Denmark's wishes," declared *Information* in a leading article. "There can be little doubt that Mr Major will get the Maastricht treaty ratified by his parliament, but... it is difficult to understand how any politician can defend a treaty which is so unpopular with Britons without allowing a referendum to be held."

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Man stabbed wife to death after tracing her to women's refuge

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A MAN who stabbed his wife to death at a women's refuge was ordered yesterday to be detained indefinitely at a secure hospital. Leeds Crown Court was told that Alan Newton, 42, had tracked down the secret address after it was revealed by a BT engineer.

Patricia Newton, 37, who had left her husband after 20 years of mental cruelty, was stabbed 12 times as she huddled with four women and five children in an attic of the hotel in Doncaster, South Yorkshire. Her husband, of Dinnington, near Rotherham, who attempted suicide

after the killing, admitted manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility.

The court was told that, at the time of the killing, Newton, a fish and chip shop owner, had been suffering from severe depression brought about by the breakdown of his marriage. Mr Justice Ognall ordered that he be kept in a secure hospital in Rotherham "without limitation of time".

As he was led from the dock, Beryl Simpson, Mrs Newton's sister, shouted: "Rot in hell."

Brian Walsh QC, for the prosecution, had told the court that Mrs Newton had been

subjected to years of verbal abuse from her husband. Early in their marriage, he had become jealous and possessive after discovering that his wife had had an affair. From then on, he rarely let her out of the house alone.

The marriage deteriorated after the couple opened a fish and chip shop which ran into cash difficulties. Mrs Newton started to suffer from depression. There was considerable friction and arguing over money, the court was told.

In October last year, Mrs Newton, a mother-of-two, moved to the refuge. Newton became depressed and suicidal. He made widespread attempts to find his wife, contacting local newspapers who then reported her disappearance and his attempts to find her.

He first discovered the telephone number of the refuge through his wife's sister. He contacted his wife by pretending to be a policeman, but she put the telephone down. He finally obtained the address through a friend, helped by a BT engineer who was later sacked and prosecuted for giving unauthorised information, Mr Walsh said.

Newton staked out the refuge on November 12 and returned with a kitchen knife. He smashed a window, climbed inside and made his way to the attic bathroom where the women and children were hiding. He grabbed his wife by the hair and pulled her to the ground, stabbing her at least 12 times, Mr Walsh said. "The children at the refuge were absolutely terrified."

Two of the wounds pierced his wife's heart and she died from loss of blood. Newton then attempted to kill himself by cutting his left wrist before making his way to his sister's home. He told police who arrived an hour later: "I know what I have done. I just want to die. I am just very sorry."

Mr Justice Ognall told Newton: "You have committed a truly terrible crime but I am satisfied from the totality of the evidence that you were indeed almost unhinged at the time."

Hidden jury finds drug baron guilty

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A WEALTHY showbusiness figure suspected by Scotland Yard to be a "godfather" of organised crime was convicted with two of his henchmen yesterday for their parts in a multi-million pound drug trafficking racket.

As he left the Old Bailey dock after a four-week trial "Big" Joseph Pyle, 56, was smiling. The case attracted security even tighter than for IRA trials — after police were tipped off about an escape plot. Armed police who had been issued with gas masks ringed the court-room and everyone entering was searched thoroughly.

Most of the public gallery was called off and the jury of seven men and five women hidden from view. Throughout the case, the jurors were given 24-hour protection by teams of officers.

An earlier trial at Southwark Crown Court collapsed when three jury members claimed that they had been approached with offers of up to £7,000 to return not guilty verdicts and threatened with harm if they did not comply.

Pyle, of Morden, Surrey, a film and record producer with offices at Finchley Studios, was convicted of supplying two controlled class A drugs, £200,000 worth of heroin and £10,000 worth of opium.

Peter Gillett, 33, of Burgess Hill, West Sussex, the "adopted" son of gangland killer Romie Kray, and Francis Tyson, 62, salesman, of no fixed address, were convicted of supplying opium.

A fourth accused, Terence Plummer, 56, a film stuntman, of Leatherhead, Surrey, was cleared of any connection with illegal drugs deals and discharged. He said he visited Pyle to talk about a film script.

In 1984, Pyle was named by police as an important international criminal with links to the Mafia. But despite the tag, yesterday was his first conviction for a serious crime for many years.

Judge Colston remanded Pyle, Gillett, a pop song writer and singer, and Tyson in custody and will sentence them on November 27.

Police seek evidence against molester

BY RICHARD FORD

A MAN who allegedly admitted sexually abusing his teenage daughter could face charges after an announcement yesterday that police are to see if fresh evidence is available to support a prosecution.

Detectives are to study reports that during an assessment period in a private clinic the man allegedly confessed to molesting his daughter, now aged 17, Michael Woodhouse, Det Chief Supt in charge of Nottinghamshire CID, said: "We are examining the implications with the fact that he did not confess to the police, to determine whether fresh evidence is available."

As the police promised to re-

investigate the case, which provoked the criticism of a High Court judge, a woman who has been caring for the victim said the girl remained frightened and vulnerable. "She has suffered sleepless nights. She is frightened. She is a nice girl, she has integrity and she has courage," the woman said. "She has been absolutely terrified and is certainly not free to roam the streets as she pleases."

The woman said that the girl had sobbed when she heard of a civil action in which Nottinghamshire County Council was criticised for refusing to pay £15,000 for 12 months' therapy for her father.

Nottinghamshire social ser-

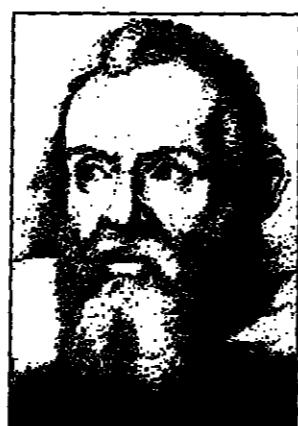
vices took civil action to bar the man from the family home but had no money to pay for treatment at Gracewell Clinic in Birmingham, even though the county council paid for the man to attend for assessment. Nottingham health authority has said it will pay the cost of the treatment.

Police sources said that the girl had not been a credible witness as she had told different stories.

The police file was passed to the Crown Prosecution Service, which found there was little corroborative evidence of the girl's allegations of sexual abuse. The dilemma now is that his alleged admission may have been made in confidence.

Galileo's star will shine once again in God's heaven

FROM PHILIP WILLIAN IN ROME AND NIGEL HAWKES



Galileo: forced to renounce his belief

to write about both systems, so long as he did so in a neutral fashion.

His masterpiece, *Dialogue on The Two Chief World Systems*, was published in 1632. In the book, two people present their conflicting views, one representing Ptolemy and the other Copernicus.

Pope Urban was persuaded that Simplicio, the Ptolemaic supporter, was a deliberate caricature of himself, and ordered a prosecution.

Eleven theologians from the Vatican's Holy Office declared Galileo's position "an absurd and false proposition in philosophy and formally heretical, that the Sun

is at the centre of the world and unmoving".

Galileo was brought before the Inquisition and ultimately ordered to recant and accept that the Earth was stationary. Old, sick, and threatened with torture, he agreed. The Pope seems to have doubted the justice of the verdict, as he commuted the sentence of imprisonment and instead ordered Galileo into house arrest on his estate near Florence.

There he stayed for the last eight years of his life, under ecclesiastical surveillance but still able to pursue his scientific work.

The Vatican quietly dropped its astronomical error in 1823 when Pope Pius VII authorised the publication of a book by Giuseppe Settala, a priest, which acknowledged the correctness of Galileo's view.

Pope John Paul II, who has made an improvement in relations between the church and science one of the goals of his pontificate, has publicly admitted the church's error on several occasions. During a visit to Galileo's birthplace of Pisa in 1989 he praised the astronomer's "greatness" and said his scientific work had been "initially imprudently opposed".

Leading article, page 13

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Surprise, surprise

If George Bush manages a John Major next week, it will be the best joke this campaign has played on America so far. It would represent the last



of many triumphs of the American political establishment in a year that was supposed to illustrate the victory of the opposite...

Andrew Sullivan dissects one of the most surprising election campaigns ever — in *The Sunday Times News Review*, tomorrow

Shakespeare meets cartoon characters in new TV series



Russian puppets upstage the Bard

BY SARAH JANE CHECKLAND

DRASTICALLY abridged Shakespeare plays, performed by puppets and cartoon characters, are to be shown on BBC2 in a series produced in collaboration with Russian animators. The purists are expected to knock it, but the Prince of Wales has already given his approval.

Shakespeare, The Animated Tales will begin screening on November 9. Each play will be reduced to 30 minutes. Among the actors providing voices for the characters are Willie Rushton as Sir Toby Belch, Zoe Wanamaker as Lady Macbeth and Timothy West as Prospero.

Some of the films, such as *Macbeth*, use familiar animation techniques. *Hamlet*, however, draws on a uniquely Russian technique whereby images are applied to glass with oil paint mixed with Vaseline. Movement is achieved by wiping out the images and repainting them.

A third category, as demonstrated by *Twelfth Night* and *The Tempest*, involves puppets incorporating four centuries of Russian animation. The size of Barbie dolls with tiny ball and socket joints within their metal "skeletons", they can be articulated with minute accuracy. Caliban has been made to look like a cross between a football hooligan and a bulldog, and Malvolio a red-nosed buffoon with a long body like a pod of peas. Prospero has white hair and green skin.

The Prince of Wales, president of the Royal Shakespeare Company, has welcomed "this pioneering project" and the fact that it will bring Shakespeare's "great wisdom, insight and all-encompassing view of mankind to many millions".

The project arose after producers from S4C, the Welsh Channel 4, approached the Sovyuzmultstudios in Moscow, established after the second world war as the state animation house. The series will also be shown on S4C.

MacMillan mourned by world of ballet

BY ALISON ROBERTS

ARTS REPORTER

THE arts world yesterday paid tribute to the internationally acclaimed choreographer, Sir Kenneth MacMillan, who died at the Royal Opera House on Thursday night during a revival of one of his ballets, *Mayoral*.

It was made clear that *Carousel*, the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical choreographed by Sir Kenneth and currently in rehearsal, will open at the National Theatre in December as planned. Its director, Nicholas Hytner, said that the cast had spent four of the most exciting weeks of their lives working with Sir Kenneth. "We shall continue to rehearse *Carousel* and make it our mission to show that he was at the pinnacle of his great creative powers," he said.

Anthony Dowell, the Royal Ballet director and former principal dancer, for whom Sir Kenneth created many roles, said that his death was a "tragic loss", adding: "He had been a part of the Royal Ballet for so long and it's very hard to come to terms with the fact that we have lost this major creative genius."

Jeremy Isaacs, general director of the Royal Opera House, who went on stage on Thursday to tell a stunned audience that Sir Kenneth had died of a heart attack, paid tribute to the creator of "masterwork after masterwork". He said: "Kenneth MacMillan extended both the language of dance and the subject matter of classical ballet. He is irreplaceable, but his work will live for ever."

The founder of the Royal Ballet, Dame Ninette de Valois, said that Sir Kenneth's "choreographic contribution to the repertoire of the Royal Ballet is a part of its roots that time will never lose". His ballets "now have a worldwide reputation", she said.

The former principal dancer of the Royal Ballet, Antoinette Sibley, for whom one of Sir Kenneth's most famous works, *Manon*, was created, said: "We are shocked and sad because we thought we had at least another 20 years with him."

Obituary, page 15

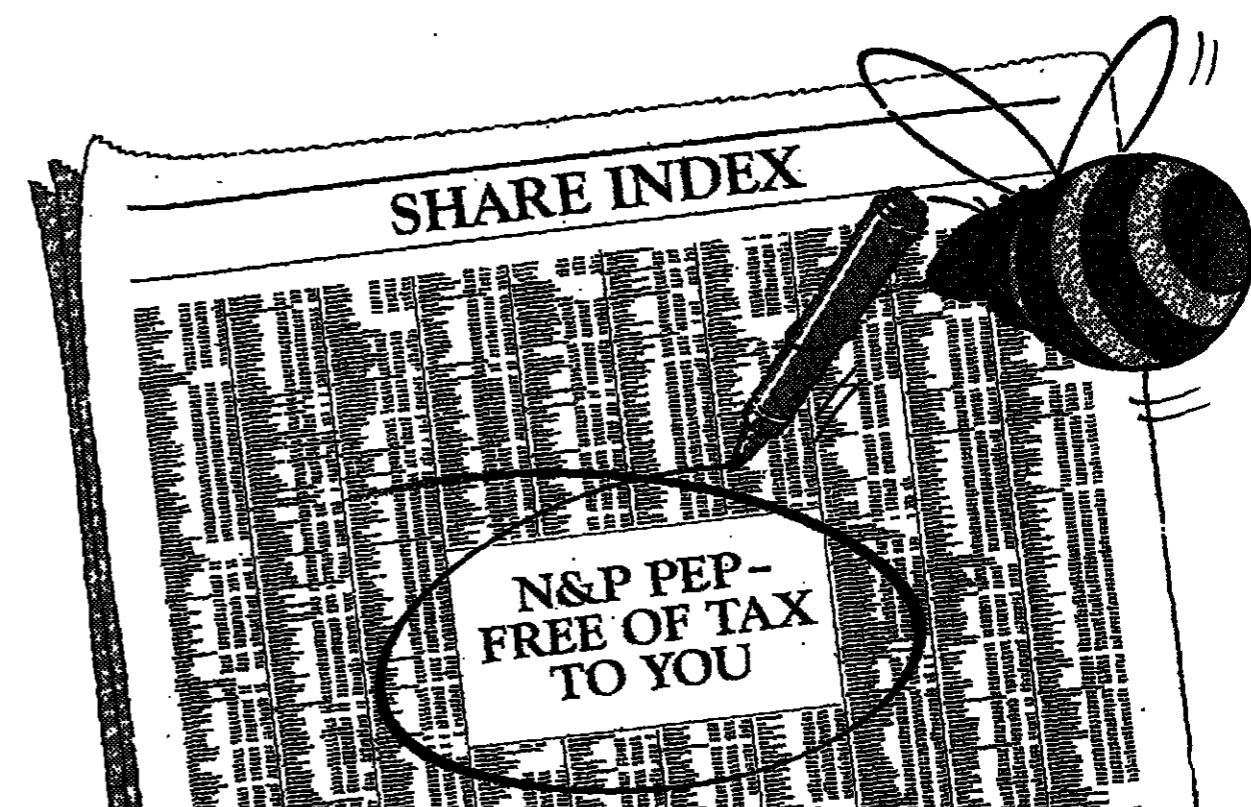
*PEP, N&P UK Income Fund — first place in the Microplus Unit Trust UK Equity Income sector for 1991 for Ten Year Performance to end 1991. Source: Microplus, office to bid for income reserved LIA8-1192.

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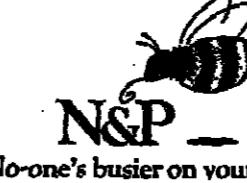
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A high-contrast, black and white graphic design. The word "hell" is written in a large, bold, sans-serif font. The "e" is a large circle with a smaller circle inside, creating a donut-like shape. The "l" is a single vertical bar. The "h" is a large, solid black shape with a white "i" inside. The background is a textured, light gray surface. In the lower right, there is a large, solid black circle containing a white circle, and a dark, jagged shape.

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Confrontation over public expenditure ceiling

Lamont threatens ministers with higher interest rates

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

NORMAN LAMONT has warned cabinet ministers that not only would early interest rate cuts be ruled out if they failed to meet the £244.5 billion public expenditure ceiling, but that rates could actually rise.

The Chancellor's threat, part of the wheeling and dealing which attends the spending round, follows signs that ministers are not prepared to accept the swinging cutbacks in budgets which were proposed by the Chancellor on Thursday. It is understood that many ministers were appalled by the programme which the special EDX spending committee has presented to the cabinet.

Mr Lamont yesterday tried to dampen speculation about early interest-rate cuts or a "cure-all" Autumn Statement, and said that he would put up interest rates if he were forced to do so. Although the prime minister told the 1922 committee on Thursday night that

the statement would contain a package of measures to boost the economy, Mr Lamont was more cautious about spending. "We are not casting aside our commitment to continue the battle against inflation. We are not going to be careless, we are not going to just slash interest rates," he said.

Speaking on BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme, he said: "I have had 2 per cent off interest rates I want to keep that 2 per cent. I don't want to have to put up interest rates unless I am forced to do so."

He underlined the importance of keeping a tight control on public spending to achieve lower interest rates in the medium term. "You can't spend your way out of a recession... we have allowed spending and borrowing to rise in this recession, we can't allow it to rise further."

Cabinet ministers were given only one set of spending cutbacks to consider by the EDX committee, although ele-

ments within that programme can be changed. Some ministers are now preparing alternative submissions from their own department in an attempt to protect priorities.

Although a virtual freeze on public-sector pay, with a ceiling set between 0 and 2 per cent, has been generally accepted, ministers are said to be angry about proposals to cut back benefits, central government grants and programmes in health, education and

treasury sources have not ruled out an increase in national insurance contributions or a temporary increase in the higher rate of tax if the spending figures fail to add up. Speculation about changes in mortgage tax relief to boost the housing market were discounted.

Labour yesterday accused the Chancellor of being bankrupt of ideas to lift Britain out of the recession as it launched a national campaign for recovery. "What the country is looking for are practical measures to take us out of the recession. There was not one new initiative on employment, investment, or on infrastructure to help the construction industry," said Gordon Brown, shadow chancellor, who is expected to announce costed details of Labour's recovery package in the next few days. John Smith, the Labour leader, is to launch its campaign tour on Monday by visiting miners in Durham.

Time for rethink on tax-guzzler services

The Chancellor faces an uphill task to control public spending. The weight of history is against him and a fundamental change is needed, argues Tony Travers

The Chancellor is still trying to make next year's public spending add up to £244.5 billion. This was the figure set earlier this year for 1993-4. Once set, ministers have decreed that it must be adhered to. Departmental bids, it is alleged, exceeded the magic total by £14 billion.

Mr Lamont has inherited a mass of apparently unstoppable provision and faces annual demands for new spending on a range of new services.

Look back at the 1980s. Although the rhetoric of the times lambasted the public sector and all its works, no central or local government services were abandoned. True, the utilities were privatised, though in a way that ensured that householders noticed little change in the provision of telephones, electricity, gas and water.

There were a few decisions to trim public provision, though the relatively tiny scale of change achieved served only to stress how far the bulk of provision survived. Eye tests, dental provision, prescriptions, housing subsidies and student support were trimmed. This amounted to a feeble death-by-a-thousand-cuts approach rather than a fundamental rethink of public provision. The core of tax-guzzling services, such as education, health, social services and the police guzzled on.

Statistics support this claim. Between 1979-80 and 1991-2, real terms current spending by local government—most of it on teachers, police, social workers and firefighters—rose by about 30 per cent. Over the same period, economic growth was just over 20 per cent. In most years spending on services rose in line with national income.

Council spending was increasingly controlled by Whitehall in the later part of the 1980s. If the government was taking more and more control, surely local spending on education and so on would fall away. The truth is that even as the government's grip tightened around local an-

thorities, public demands for services, and market-induced pay pressures, have forced Whitehall to maintain or increase local public services.

The government, despite its self-styled radicalism, has had to concede to a public which wants to keep every public library, every uneconomic inner city school and every village bobby.

On the positive side, the government made a number of significant savings during the 1980s by initiatives such as bus deregulation, competitive tendering and improving council efficiency.

But most of these savings were one-off and were more than matched by ministers legislating for government provision, helped by media panic in the cases of Listeria hysteria (Food Safety Act) and child abuse (Children Act).

From a local authority's point of view, the consumers of their services have a reasonable expectation that, for example, provision at a school will improve at broadly the same rate as in the homes of most of the pupils. Moreover, teachers must be paid the rate for the job. In the late 1980s, the government had to sanction large pay rises to keep teachers' pay competitive and tackle staff shortages in many specialisms.

If the public sector is unsatisfactory, how can the Chancellor hope to start growth, eg promoting infrastructure projects, without exceeding the £244.5 billion limit? The short-term answer has been provided by demands for a public-sector pay freeze in 1993.

In the longer term, public-sector pay will inexorably rise again in line with national income. Mr Lamont has shown no new insights in reducing the scope of the public sector.

The sooner we all come to understand the relentless and unstoppable pressures for public spending, the sooner we can decide whether we care.

□ The author is a director of research at the London School of Economics

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Mind's eye: Kathleen Turner at work for the BBC in London yesterday re-creating for a new-year serial the character of Chicago private detective V.I. Warshawski, which she first played in a Radio 4 drama last year

Funding agency will replace local education authorities in grant-maintained sector

Patten unveils more bureaucracy to run opt-out schools

■ John Patten's education bill will create a new bureaucracy for opt-out schools as local education authorities wither

BY MATTHEW D'ANCONA, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A POWERFUL new bureaucracy to take control of education as schools opt out of council control is proposed in a bill put before parliament by John Patten, the education secretary, yesterday.

The foundation of this structural revolution will be the Funding Agency for Schools, which is to assume increasing responsibility for management of the expanding grant-maintained (GM) sector. Mr Patten, who expects to gain 44 new powers from the bill, said yesterday that 472 schools had already received approval to leave local authority control, giving force to the government's target of 1,500 GM schools by April 1994.

The new agency or its sister organisation, the Schools Funding Council for Wales, will take over the payment of grants and financial monitoring of GM schools from the education department. A new common funding formula, to be agreed by 1994, will be introduced gradually as the number of grant-maintained schools in each area increases.

The funding agency, to have ten to 15 members appointed by the education secretary, will also gain powers over the

allocation of places and admissions in a local authority once 10 per cent of its pupils are taught at GM schools. The bill requires the funding agency to co-operate with local authorities in the provision of school places until 75 per cent of pupils are in the GM sector, when full responsibility will go to the agency.

Mr Patten will be able to delegate other powers to the agency, including the rights to alter a school's articles of government, to approve a change in its character and to order its closure.

A location has yet to be agreed for the agency, but regional offices are expected to be set up as more schools opt out. The bill says that the cost of the agency will be met by savings in the education department, the Welsh Office and local education authorities, as well as by the removal of surplus places in schools.

Local authorities will continue to oversee provision for children with special needs, psychological evaluation and transport, but will be allowed to sell other goods and services to grant-maintained schools only for a two-year period. Mr Patten told the Commons

select committee on education this week that councils might eventually amalgamate education and social services.

The bill, due for its second reading on November 9, will empower the education secretary to replace first governors, the core governors who form the majority on the governing body of grant-maintained schools. Ministers hope this will prevent a re-enactment of the protracted dispute at Stratford School this year, in which a group of Asian governors battled for control with the head teacher.

Mr Patten also intends to reduce dramatically the number of surplus places from 1.5 million to 700,000 and will seek powers to direct local authorities and the funding agency to remove surplus capacity. Their plans will be referred to public enquiries, to which the education secretary should submit his own proposals.

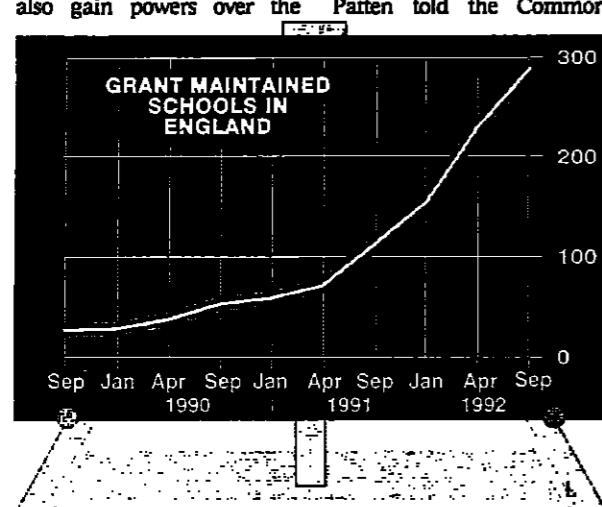
In spite of pressure from some Tory radicals to remove it, the parental ballot continues to be the cornerstone of the government's campaign to encourage schools to opt out. The bill includes measures to speed up the application procedure, removing the requirement for governors to pass a second resolution seeking grant-maintained status.

Groups of small primary schools will be able to opt out in clusters, with a single co-ordinating governing body, enabling the group to share costs. Voluntary bodies, such as churches, will be able to set up grant-maintained schools with the funding agency providing 85 per cent of building costs. This provision is expected to smooth the path to the opening of state-funded Muslim schools.

The devotion of a whole chapter of the bill to the so-called "hit squads" underlines Mr Patten's determination to crack the nut of failing schools in spite of criticisms that the new system will rob many



Crafting a new system: John Patten's proposals would clear the way for Muslims to set up state schools



Oxford's dark side, page 12
Leading article, page 13

Outsiders to give governors stark choice

BY MATTHEW D'ANCONA, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

FAILING schools that do not respond to local authority remedies will be taken over by outsiders and given the stark choice between closure and opting out under plans published in yesterday's bill.

When a school is judged by inspectors to "require special measures", the local authority will have the right to appoint additional governors and suspend the school's right to run its own budget. If these measures fail, the education secretary will move in an education association, a temporary body of at least five outside managers, to prepare the school for grant-maintained status without parental ballot.

The devotion of a whole chapter of the bill to the so-called "hit squads" underlines Mr Patten's determination to crack the nut of failing schools in spite of criticisms that the new system will rob many

parents of the right to vote on opting out. The new arrangements reflecting the education secretary's belief that low standards usually reflect poor leadership, have the strong backing of the prime minister, who unveiled them in a speech to the Adam Smith Institute this summer.

In one of the bill's few amendments to July's white paper, the government now proposes to widen the associations' area of responsibility to include voluntary schools. The bill will also enable each association to set up committees to discharge particular responsibilities.

The first round of visits carried out by the revamped inspectorate under Professor Stewart Sutherland next year will be arranged to cover as many failing schools as possible and Mr Patten has referred to a "little list" of those

which will be assessed as a matter of urgency. Schools that fail to meet the deadline set for reform will be taken over by an association, which will perform a role similar to that of a governing body in an opted-out school, including responsibilities for funds.

The association, employed directly by the education department, will also have the power to hire and fire staff, propose changes to a school's character and change its articles of government. Its final task will be to recommend that the education secretary close the school or transfer it to the grant-maintained sector.

Chris Adamson, education chairman of the Association of London Authorities, welcomed the government's interest in failing schools but said such measures could be carried out only in a spirit of partnership with local authori-

ties. "We shall be seeking amendments which will give local authorities more financial powers and staffing where schools are identified as at risk," he said.

The bill confounds predictions of a charter for selection and does little to advance the white paper's intention to promote subject specialisation. Grant-maintained schools will still have to seek ministerial approval for a formal change of character to become selective. The first to seek it, Castle Hall school in West Yorkshire, was rejected.

Ministers remain sympathetic to schools wishing to specialise. An education department ruling released yesterday cleared the way for schools to select up to 10 per cent of pupils on the basis of non-academic ability.

Sutherland: to visit failing schools

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£25,000+ £10,000+ £5,000+		6.70	6.91	5.03	5.15	6.20	6.38	—	—
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CARD CASH		2.00	2.01	1.50	1.51	2.00	2.01	—	—
£2,000+		1.50	1.51	1.13	1.13	1.50	1.51	—	—
£500+		1.00	1.00	0.75	0.75	1.00	1.00	—	—
PAID-UP SHARE		1.50	1.51	1.13	1.13	1.50	1.51	—	—
£500+		1.00	1.00	0.75	0.75	1.00	1.00	—	—
DEPOSIT		1.50	1.51	1.12	1.13	1.50	1.51	—	—
£250+		1.00	1.00	0.75	0.75	1.00	1.00	—	—
GUARANTEED RESERVE MATURATED FUND ACCOUNT		6.60	—	4.95	—	6.60	—	—	—
£10,000+		5.90	—	4.43	—	5.90	—	—	—
CLOSED ISSUES		5.50	—	4.13	—	5.10	—	—	—
Invest Kira £10,000+ £5,000+		5.00	—	3.75	—	4.20	—	—	—
20 Day Kira £2,000+		4.75	—	3.56	—	4.40	—	—	—
£500+		4.25	—	3.19	—	4.10	—	—	—
Monthly Savings 7.7% 7.4% 7.1%		3.00	3.02	2.25	2.26	2.00	2.01	—	—
20 Day Kira £10,000+		3.35	3.38	2.51	2.53	3.25	3.28	—	—
Special Investment Account (1st Issue)		3.00	3.03	2.43	2.45	3.00	3.03	—	—
Special Investment Account (2nd Issue)		3.00	3.02	2.25	2.26	3.00	3.02	—	—
5 Year Term Share		3.00	3.02	2.25	2.26	3.00	3.03	—	—
Subscription Share		1.45	1.46	1.09	1.09	1.45	1.46	—	—
Matured Subscription Share		1.45	1.46	1.09					

Drugs suspect shown secret telex

Customs officer jailed for tipping off lover's father

BY A STAFF REPORTER

LOVE drove a young customs officer to breach the Official Secrets Act and tip off a suspected drug-smuggler that he was being watched, an Old Bailey judge was told yesterday.

Richard Hollywell, 21, hoped that divulging the contents of secret Customs and



Hollywell breached the Official Secrets Act

Excise telexes and alerting the suspect to the surveillance would help him get to know the suspect's step-daughter, Nigel Peters, for the prosecution, said.

Hollywell, of Sheerness, Kent, did become the girl's boy friend, but was later arrested with her father. He was jailed for nine months yesterday after admitting disclosing confidential and restricted information — an offence under Section 4 of the Official Secrets Act 1989 between July 23 and September 30 last year.

Mr Justice Swinton Thomas told Hollywell: "Not only were you in a position of trust, but a high and particular degree of trust was placed in you — and you betrayed it."

Mr Peters said Hollywell joined Customs and Excise in 1989 and was promoted later that year to administrative officer, the equivalent of a police constable. He was served with, and signed, a copy of the Official Secrets Act.

His job, which involved searching boats and cars at Sheerness and Ramsgate, gave him access to confidential telexes. He came across one that warned that the suspected drug-smuggler might return from Europe with drugs. It listed registration numbers of vehicles he was thought to be using. Customs men were instructed in the telexes to make routine checks, but not to alert the man that he was under suspicion.

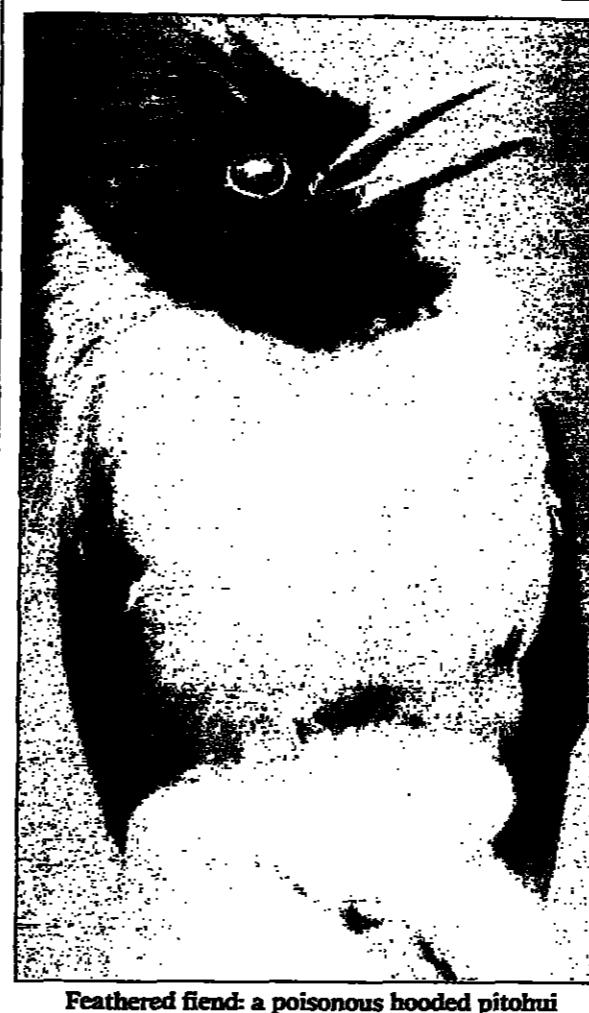
After his arrest last November, Hollywell said that he knew the man was "a bit of a dodgy character", but he initially denied passing information. Eventually, he admitted informing the suspect that customs staff at ports had been asked to watch for him. He said he had also handed over the registration numbers given in the telexes.

Hollywell received no financial reward for what he did, Mr Peters said, although he claimed he was offered cash. The judge made an order under the Contempt of Court Act forbidding publication of the suspect's name or other information.

Peter King, for the defence, said Hollywell's interest in the man's step-daughter, rather than money, caused his actions. "Stupidly, he provided the information to ingratiate himself with one daughter in the hope that he could get to know her sister better," Mr King said. "He invites you to accept that he did not have the foresight to realise the implications."

Mr Justice Swinton Thomas said: "It is undoubtedly a tragedy to see a young man like you, who has up until now been of good character and held down a responsible position, pleading guilty to an offence such as this."

Hollywell might not have appreciated the gravity of what he had done, the judge added, but if it involved a breach of trust and imprisonment was "inevitable".



Feathered fiend: a poisonous hooded pitohui

Scientists net toxic killer from the skies

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

AN ORANGE and black songbird found in the jungles of New Guinea has become the first bird proved by scientists to be poisonous.

The hooded pitohui's defence mechanism, powerful enough to kill a mouse in minutes, was discovered by accident by American scientists trying to catch birds of paradise, according to John Dumbacher, of the University of Chicago. Several of the birds became entangled in nets. "We were trying to release them as quickly as possible, but they were able to cut our hands with their sharp beaks and claws," he says. When he licked his wounds, his mouth began to tingle and go numb.

He and other researchers caught more pitohui and put feathers on their tongues. The reaction was immediate.

"The toxin caused numbness, burning and sneezing on contact," he reports in this week's *Science* magazine.

The toxin, found in the bird's feathers, skin and flesh, contain homobatrachotoxin, one of the most powerful natural toxins. Only one other creature produces it, the poison-dart frog of South America, used by Amerindians on poison arrows.

One pitohui contains enough poison to kill quite a few frogs. Mr Dumbacher says, "If you delivered it to a human, I suspect there is enough toxin in one bird to do some serious damage."

Three types of pitohui, the hooded, the variable and the rusty, were tested with the hooded variety the most toxic. The poison is probably used as a defence against predators such as snakes and hawks, which attack many songbirds in New Guinea but tend to leave the pitohui alone. Other birds have copied the hooded pitohui's distinctive colours in an attempt to share the same defence.

Although a surprise to the scientists, the unpleasant effects of eating pitohui are well-known to New Guinea natives, who describe it as a "rubbish bird", Mr Dumbacher adds.

Feather report
Weekend, page 3

Promoter loses boxing libel case

BY A STAFF REPORTER

RUC chief condemns bombing of houses

FROM EDWARD GORMAN
IN BELFAST

THE boxing promoter Frank Warren lost his libel action yesterday against his former protege Terry Marsh, who had claimed in a television interview that Mr Warren allowed him to sign a contract for a fight knowing that he was suffering from epilepsy.

A High Court jury agreed that the allegation was defamatory, but could not agree on whether it was true. It also decided that Mr Warren had consented to the broadcast of the interview, by Thames Television in January 1989.

Mr Warren, 40, of Tewin, Hertfordshire, faces £100,000 costs. He is considering an appeal. He told the court that he knew nothing about Mr Marsh's epilepsy until he saw it reported in a newspaper.

Outside the court, he said: "Obviously I am disappointed the jury found it was defamatory but could not decide who was telling the truth. But if he [Mr Marsh] says it again, we will be back here tomorrow. I feel he is telling lies. There is no reason for our paths to cross in the future. I was never friends with him. I was his manager."

Mr Marsh, 34, of Wickford, Essex, had denied libel. He claimed that the words were true, that Mr Warren had consented to the pre-recorded programme going out, and that Mr Warren was not entitled to any damages.

Mr Marsh was a former fireman who became world light welterweight champion in 1987 under Mr Warren's management. Two years ago, he was tried and acquitted of attempting to murder Mr Warren, who was shot at close range in the street.

Miners vow to fight on as colliery closes

BY KATE ALDERTON

THE miners of Grimethorpe colliery, Yorkshire, whose brass band won a national competition two weeks ago, yesterday lost their pit and accused British Coal of industrial sabotage.

As the men emerged from the pit after their last production shift they spoke of their bitterness and despair, but said the fight against closure would continue with the injunction the National Union of Mineworkers has applied for against British Coal.

British Coal has begun removing from the pit equipment used for developing new coal faces. The union fears that this could signal the removal of maintenance machinery essential to maintain the fabric of the mine during the 90-day consultation period set out by Michael Heseltine, president of the board of trade. The High Court will decide the injunction on Tuesday.

Michael Glover, union branch treasurer, said: "Michael Heseltine said that we had a 90-day period in which the mine would be maintained, and we are going to fight for that." More than 160 miners have already tak-

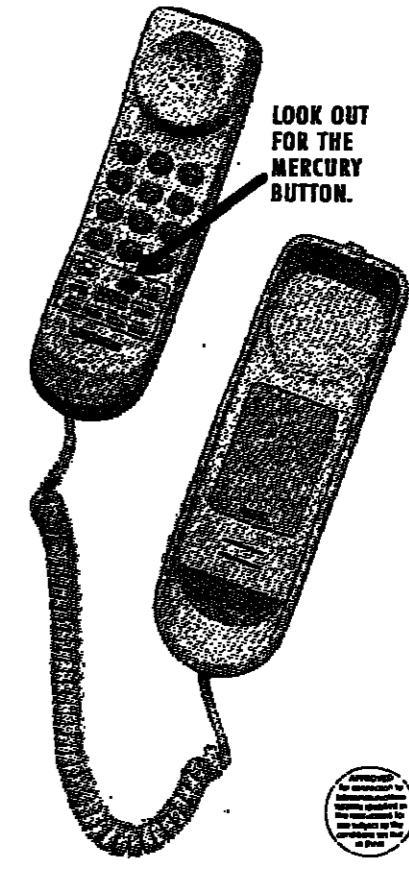
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Yeltsin rallies support as extremist rivals gather strength



Yeltsin: may move to rule by decree

By ANNE McELVAN IN MOSCOW
AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

PRESIDENT Yeltsin rallied support yesterday for his beleaguered government in the Russian provinces, defending his government in a week which has seen the banning of the opposition National Salvation Front, the ousting of the paramilitary parliamentary guard, and a tougher stance towards the Baltic states.

Speaking in Astrakhan in southeastern Russia, Mr Yeltsin promised stabilisation early next year, but did not rule out the possibility that he would move to rule by decree if the challenges to his reform programme hardened.

The president has been sharply criticised by Baltic leaders for his decree, issued on Thursday, linking the withdrawal of Russian troops

to guarantees of human rights for former Russian military personnel in the three states. NATO said that it was concerned at the decision to postpone the pullout and urged Russia to resume its withdrawal forthwith.

Andreijs Krastins, the Latvian leader, said that the move "reflected the instability of power in Russia" and that Moscow's position on the Baltic states "changes every day with every twist and turn of the internal political situation". The decree is clearly intended to pacify the military, who have accused Mr Yeltsin of being too cautious in defending the interests of Russians in the former Soviet republics.

In Moscow, Boris Gromov, the deputy defence minister,

■ The Russian leader is being cornered by sundry enemies. But his supporters in the West are distracted at the very time his reforms are facing the gravest danger

said the withdrawal of Russian troops and equipment from the Baltic states could take up to seven years. The refusal of the three nations to allow deployment of fresh recruits from Russia to dismantle equipment was slowing the operation.

With the political atmosphere growing more frenzied as the powerful Congress of People's Deputies approaches, the Russian leader is being cornered by sundry enemies. Mr Yeltsin faces pressure from several sources, starting with the alliance of far left and far right. Western terminol-

ogy fails to cope adequately with the spectrum of Russian politics. The National Salvation Front includes former hardline communists, such as Victor Alksnis, who opposed President Gorbachev's reforms, nationalists such as Sergei Baburin, and pragmatists such as Ruslan Khasbulatov.

Dangerously for the government, they have put aside their differences to concentrate on battling against reforms. Both wings have Slavophile tendencies and distrust the West. The one

camp citing "Anglo-Saxon pro-Zionism", the other "capitalist imperialism". The result is the same desire to lead Russia off the course of integration into Western economic and security systems.

The strength of such groupings is their appeal to battered national pride and the simplicity of their message at a time when the population is not interested in fathoming political complexities. The weakness is their chaotic heterogeneity.

The Civic Union is an umbrella-group dominated by the military-industrial complex and its interests. Its main players are Artadi Volsky, head of the industrialists' union, and Aleksandr Rutskoi, the ambitious vice-president, who last week indulged in the not entirely supportive observation that President Yeltsin's Russia was

"an economic and political rubbish dump".

Earlier this year, the union was seen as the hardline threat until the extremists showed their strength. Its aims are to stall privatisation and end the current strategy of fiscal and monetarist controls (backed by the International Monetary Fund and Western governments) in favour of investment in, and larger credits to, industry.

These aims, however, are closely linked to an understanding of Russia as a heavy industry-dominated military power. Any rise in the influence of the union and its pragmatism conceals a political agenda which should worry the West. But a pact with the union may be the price Mr Yeltsin is forced to pay to keep power and stabilise his government.

Former President Gorb-

achev this week linked arms with Konstantin Borovoy, the multi-millionaire head of the Economic Freedom party — also an enemy of Mr Yeltsin. Mr Borovoy has lots of money and no influence abroad, while Mr Gorbachev has international sympathy in abundance but dwindling assets stripped by Mr Yeltsin. They may well support a Civic Union bid for power in the future.

The Russian population, particularly in the provinces, is more concerned with how it is going to get through the winter than how the government will survive it. Election year in America and the turbulence surrounding the Maastricht treaty in Europe have distracted the attention of the West from the fate of Russia at the very time that its reforms are facing the gravest danger.

Hope of Bundesbank rate cut recedes

Coalition ties Kohl's hands on tax rises

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN BONN

LEADERS of Germany's coalition parties yesterday ruled out any rise in German taxes before 1995. Earlier this week Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, said that tax increases would be necessary by then or sooner if major cuts in government spending were not achieved.

In a move which is bound to disappoint Germany's partners, and makes a significant reduction of interest rates by the Bundesbank less likely, the coalition leaders accepted that a budget deficit, several billion marks higher than this year's level of DM38 billion (£15.3 billion), would be inevitable.

Theo Waigel, the finance minister and leader of the Bavarian Christian Social

Union, and two leading Free Democrats, Jürgen Möller, the economics minister, and Count Otto Lambsdorff, the party chairman, have all spoken against early tax increases for fear of worsening the recession. The recession itself means that tax income is expected to drop by at least eight billion marks next year.

The opposition Social Democrats strongly criticised the coalition statement. A spokeswoman said the government is "leaving into new debts because it lacks the strength to save money". However, the SPD itself and its trade union allies are bound to oppose many of the spending cuts which economists consider es-

sential, especially in the huge subsidies made to uncompetitive sectors such as coal mining and steel.

The public opposition of Herr Waigel and the Free Democrats to tax increases has been described as a "slap in the face" for Chancellor Kohl who declared on Monday that "the fat years are over" and that "the hour of truth" has come. However, he did not spell out what tax increases he considers necessary.

Herr Kohl has been criticised for his failure to warn Germans two years ago of the necessity of making sacrifices to pay for unification. During a speech this week in Düsseldorf, he said "the German people may ask why am I saying this now?", to which the liberal weekly *Die Zeit* replied wistfully that what they are actually asking is "Why didn't you say it before?"

The course of the tax debate indicates the difficulty of achieving a German consensus on painful economic measures. The Christian Democrats might be able to unite behind higher taxes but the idea has to be accepted by the Free Democrats and Christian Socialists before it can be sold to the nation.

Herr Kohl's speech at Düsseldorf was delivered with his characteristic lack of flourish and rhetoric. Equally characteristic was the way in which he was able to secure his leadership of the party by undermining one of the men seen as a possible successor, Volker Rühe, the defence minister. Herr Rühe, contrary to expectation, was not elected as a deputy party chairman. Instead, Heinz Eggert, an east German and former dissident pastor, joined the four-member board.

Herr Kohl undoubtedly has deferred tax increases with the 1994 elections in mind. However, observers have predicted that they will result in a grand coalition between the CDU and SPD, perhaps with Herr Rühe as chancellor. It may be that only such a coalition would be able to bring in the kind of painful measures that Herr Kohl envisages but is too weak to call for directly.

Hiss trumpets his innocence

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN WASHINGTON

ALGER Hiss, the convicted perjurer and suspected Soviet spy, has held a press conference in New York to declare his "happiness, elation and joy" that his name had finally been cleared of the charges of espionage against him dating back to 1948.

Frail at 87 but still emphatically proclaiming his innocence, Mr Hiss said he had begun to fear that he would not be exonerated in his lifetime but believed "the truth would eventually come out".

The truth about Mr Hiss may be as elusive as ever, and the latest chapter in a mystery that has divided this country has sparked a fresh round of disagreement among historians, Soviet experts and Americans for whom the Hiss case is one of the definitive episodes of the Cold war.

Mr Hiss's latest defender has appeared in the shape of General Dimitri Volkogonov, the chairman of Russia's military intelligence archives, who issued a videotaped statement this week declaring that Soviet archives proved the accusations of spying against Mr Hiss were "completely

groundless". However, some historians in the West are suspicious of the passionate certainty with which the general has leapt to defend Mr Hiss. It would take years, they say, to search through all the relevant files.

Some American historians have learned to treat Russian claims over the contents of Soviet archives with caution, after President Yeltsin claimed evidence of Western prisoners of war in the country which have yet to be substantiated.

Herr Kohl undoubtedly has deferred tax increases with the 1994 elections in mind. However, observers have predicted that they will result in a grand coalition between the CDU and SPD, perhaps with Herr Rühe as chancellor. It may be that only such a coalition would be able to bring in the kind of painful measures that Herr Kohl envisages but is too weak to call for directly.

Hiss cleared of spying by Russian general

Hell to pay over smoke ban

FROM CHARLES BREMNER
IN PARIS

LETTER FROM PARIS

Sartre may have been a misguided old phoney, at least according to the fashionably revised version of history, but the existentialist French philosopher and writer got it right about his countrymen when he observed in his play *Huis Clos*: "L'enfer, c'est les autres" (hell is other people).

The French government apparently forgot the fine line when it decided to change France in one go from the smokers' heaven of the European Community into its capital of medical correctness. That revolution arrives tomorrow. From midnight, nobody in the land of Gaulois fog is allowed to smoke in any common space, whether public transport, restaurant, cafe or workplace, unless they are told to do so in special areas. Offenders are to be referred to the nearest constable for a fine equivalent to \$80 or even imprisonment.

The method has worked well in civic-minded America

and Scandinavia, but, in France there has been a fierce outcry from smokers, police, philosophers, employers, restaurateurs, who see the scheme as strike by totalitarian zealots to deprive France of its hard-won liberties.

This law illustrates for eternity the inimitable way of the Mitterrand regime," said *Le Quotidien de Paris* in a polemic that managed to haul in everything from Greek thinkers and the guillotine to Beirut and the Maastricht treaty.

For Henry Chapier, a television arts critic, "health dictatorship" is being imposed on us. This law is just a comedy and it will serve only to set people against each other." Visions of a smoke Gestapo hounding law-breakers are particularly upsetting for the police, who fear an outbreak of civil



On the headline: a policeman trying to keep order yesterday in queues for loaves in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, after fighting between government forces and groups loyal to Rakmon

Nabiyev, the ousted communist president, led to food shortages. Last night, Abdulmalik Abdullaev, the prime minister, appealed to Russia to send more troops to help protect

his capital from pro-communist gunmen. He said the Russian troops in Tajikistan, caught in fighting between rival clans which has killed hundreds of people, would take

control of roads leading to Dushanbe. Several thousand pro-communist gunmen stormed the capital with relative ease last weekend. They later retreated, but control nearby towns.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Europe to increase Asia trade

THE troika of European Community foreign ministers, led by Douglas Hurd, agreed to expand trade and promote investment in Southeast Asia at a summit meeting in Manila with the Association of South-East Asian Nations (Michael Binyon writes).

The deal came in spite of earlier calls from the Portuguese for greater observance by Indonesia of human rights in East Timor. The summit omitted this question from the communiqué. All parties simply promised to continue their dialogue on human rights.

Trees polluted

BONN: More than two thirds of trees in Germany have suffered damage as a result of acid rain and other pollution. The German Association for Environmental Protection has declared on the basis of the latest official figures.

Allen order

NEW YORK: A court ordered Woody Allen, the film director, not to contact the school of his adopted daughter Dylan, Allen's estranged lover, Mia Farrow, has accused him of molesting the girl, but he has denied it (Reuters).

Peak reached

TOKYO: Six climbers of a Sino-Japanese expedition scaled the tallest unclimbed mountain in the world, the 25,531 ft Namchu Barwa, in Tibet, it was announced. (Reuters)

Historian held

Victoria, Canada: David Irving, the British historian who claims the Nazi holocaust has been exaggerated, faced deportation from Canada after being arrested while he was addressing a meeting. (Reuters)

Final croak

DELHI: Dozens of frogs died after one swallowed a gold chain left by a woman by a river in Kerala, India. Her relatives caught the frogs and cut them open. The chain was found in the 68th frog. (AP)

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£5,000-£9,999	7.50%	5.63%
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Gross p.a.		
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£25,000-£49,999	7.20%	5.40%
£20,000-£24,999	6.60%	4.95%
£5,000-£9,999	6.00%	4.50%
£3,000-£4,999	5.50%	4.20%
£1,000-£1,499	3.50%	4.13%

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Gross p.a.		
£50,000 and over	7.70%	5.78%
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£20,000-£24,999	6.70%	5.03%
£5,000-£9,999	6.10%	4.58%
£3,000-£4,999	5.60%	4.20%

Cash		

White House contenders braced for frantic finale

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE American presidential election was yesterday building to a frenetic weekend climax with President Bush and Bill Clinton hurtling around the battleground states like balls in a pinball machine.

The latest CNN/USA Today tracking poll of likely voters showed Mr Bush trailing just one point with four days left. Other polls suggested a ten-point gap, but the president evidently believes he can still pull off the greatest upset of modern American politics.

State by state the race is clearly tightening, and aides to Mr Clinton, who is so close to becoming only the third Democrat to be elected president in 28 years, have started to recall Michael Dukakis' wish in 1988 that he had an extra two weeks. The Clinton camp says it wishes that the campaign had ended two weeks early.

Mr Bush's act was finally

coming together as he whipped up huge rallies of the faithful with hyperbolic oratory. He accused his Democratic opponent of propounding "trample-down economics" in which an army of bureaucrats would march all over the dreams of ordinary people. Mr Bush said his dog Millie knew more about foreign policy than Mr Clinton and Al Gore, his running mate.

The president, who has persistently denied this campaign as the ugliest in memory, now refers to Mr Gore as "Ozone" and criticises his passion for the environment.

"This guy's crazy. He is way out, far out. Far out, man," Mr Bush said.

Mr Clinton alternated between attacking Mr Bush for all the "incredible dishonest things" he had said on the campaign trail, and attempting to persuade voters that Mr Bush's claims of economic recovery were false.

The governor compared Mr Bush's assaults on his integrity to Richard Nixon's attacks on John Kennedy in 1960. He said the last quarter's better-than-expected economic growth figures were the result of huge arms sales that Mr Bush had approved purely to win votes in key states. Asked at a town hall meeting why he called his opponent "Mr Bush", not "President Bush", he said it was hard for him to treat respectfully a man whose campaign had rifled through US State Department files.

"Looking for dirt on my opponent." Once again yesterday Mr Clinton was forced to deny on a telephone call-in show that he was unfaithful to his wife.

Mr Bush suffered an embarrassment when the FBI raided the home of Catalina Villapando, the US Treasurer, on the suspicion that she had illegally accepted payments from her former employer after Mr Bush appointed her to his administration.

The CNN tracking polls have shown a virtual dead-heat since Wednesday when they began concentrating purely on respondents certain to vote, but their wider survey of all adults yesterday gave Mr Clinton an eight-point lead.

That was in line with the ABC News tracking poll which put the Arkansas governor nine points ahead, and an NBC- Wall Street Journal poll which gave a ten-point gap. All three showed Ross Perot's support slumping to between 13 and 16 points.

Diary, page 12

Bush aims for trade vote-winner

FROM TOM WALKER
IN BRUSSELS

RAY MacSharry, the European Community farm commissioner, will meet Ed Madigan, the American agriculture secretary, in Chicago tomorrow in a final attempt to break the deadlock in the world trade talks before the presidential election.

If the gap between Washington and Brussels on agricultural subsidies can be bridged, a Gatt (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) deal worth \$200 billion (£127 billion) to the world economy could be secured.

By agreeing to hold further talks, the Americans have kept alive the slim chance that President Bush can lay claim to a Gatt deal protecting the interests of American farmers, a potent vote-winner in rural states. French diplomats have already discounted any hope of compromise in time for the presidential election. "The differences between us are just too big," a French foreign ministry source said.

Commission officials estimated the chance of success in Chicago at about 50-50. One said: "We're about as close as we've ever been."

President gazes at black hole in the Lone Star state

FROM JAMIE DETTMER IN DALLAS

GEORGE Bush has visited Texas six times since the middle of August, a frequency that testifies to the Republicans' precarious hold on a state the president calls home.

Since 1945 only two presidential candidates — Adlai Stevenson and George McGovern — have failed to carry their home state. Judging by an opinion poll published last Saturday, which shows Bill Clinton leading here by nearly 8 per cent, Mr Bush is facing a mighty struggle to avoid coming in third.

Mr Perot will almost certainly have more impact in Texas on Tuesday than in any other state. Nobody, save the most starry-eyed Perot loyalist, believes he can win the Lone Star state but he can act as a spoiler, although it is not clear who he will hurt most.

If he is to secure re-election, Mr Bush must win Texas, the third most populous state in the union. With California and New York firmly in the Democrat camp, it will be virtually impossible for the president to go back to the White House without the backing of Texas and Florida.

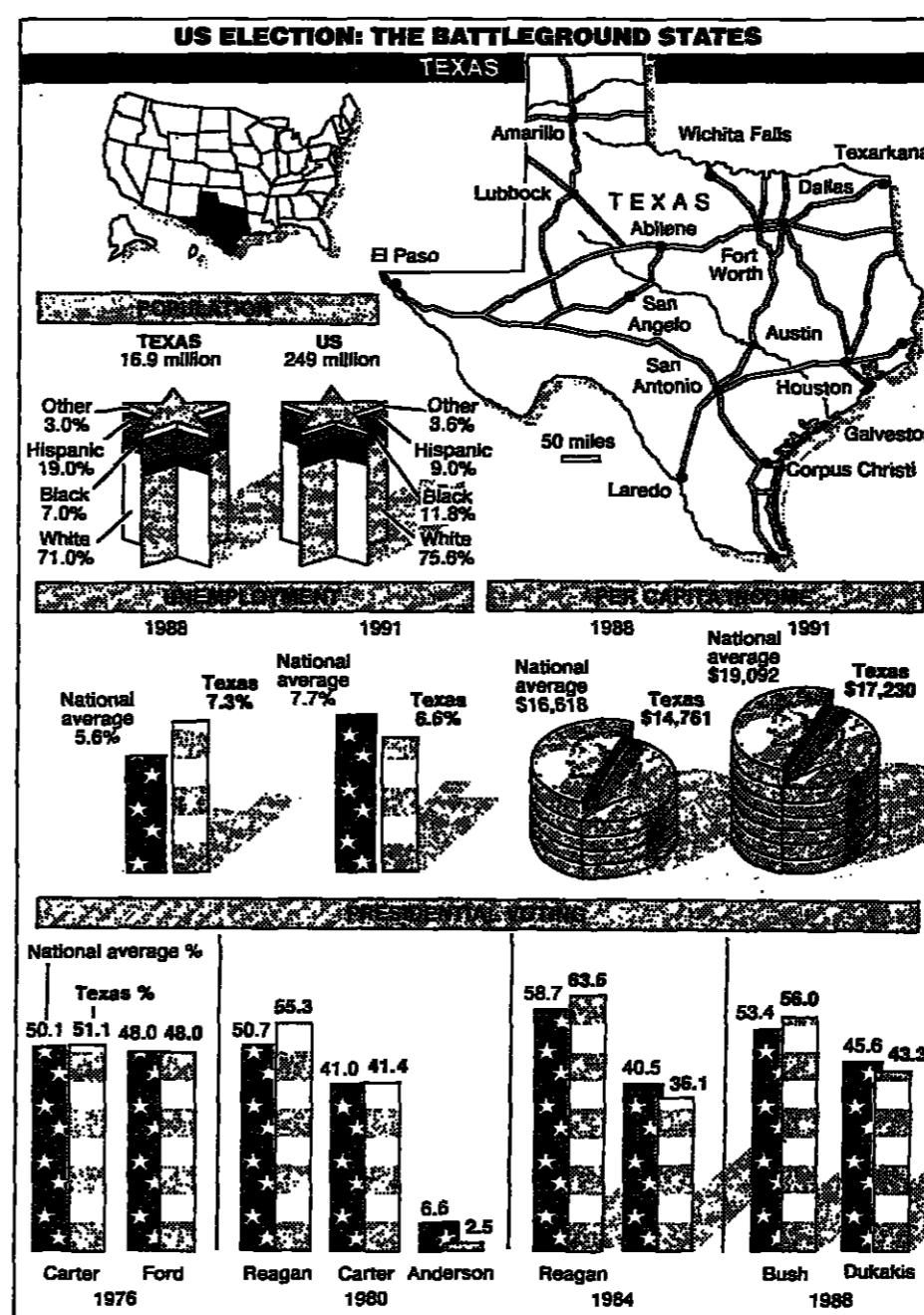
For most of the past month Mr Clinton and the president

have been running neck and neck in Texas. Texas has not backed the Democrats in a White House contest since Jimmy Carter won it 16 years ago. Ronald Reagan was adored here but there is little enthusiasm for Mr Bush.

Texans learn the hard way that what goes boom goes bust. In the 1970s and early 1980s the state enjoyed breathtaking expansion. The oil flowed, Houston swaggered. Dallas became the banking and insurance capital of the Sun Belt at its sunniest time and celebrated by transforming its skyline with glass towers. Railing around the cry, "better nouveau than never", the new rich flaunted their wealth and the not so rich enjoyed a lifestyle that was the envy of middle America. With a slump in the "awful business", as Texans pronounce it, in 1986, the good times went.

Senior Texas Republicans understand the economy is undermining their electoral base and Mr Bush has, fairly or not, taken much of the blame. He has done his best to mollify voters in recent months. He cut a deal with Congress to keep federal financing for the development of an \$8 billion (£5 billion) atom smasher in South Dallas with the promise of more than 7,000 jobs. In the summer he authorised, to the dismay of China, the \$6 billion sale to Taiwan of F16 fighters, which are made at Fort Worth.

The Democrats, however, are making inroads in the Permian Basin in west Texas, the centre of the oil industry. In Dallas and Fort Worth, Mr Perot is thought to be taking votes Mr Bush needs to offset the Democrats' strength among Hispanic voters in the south of the state. But Mr Clinton has not poured his



In Dallas and Fort Worth, Mr Perot is thought to be taking votes Mr Bush needs to offset the Democrats' strength among Hispanic voters in the south of the state. But Mr Clinton has not poured his

president could make to the battleground areas of the northeast and Midwest. Mr Clinton has won Texas, thereby cutting down on the trips the

New kid goes on slow jog around the block

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN WASHINGTON

Although Bill Clinton has taken to jogging with real fervour every day, he never seems to get any thinner. His crueler critics in the Republican party say that this is a sign of what would happen under a Clinton administration — lots of puffing and puffing, without quite getting anywhere.

With the Republicans apparently closing the poll gap, the Arkansas governor is jogging more and more, the sweat pouring off him as he lumbers along, now through Michigan, now in Wisconsin, often accompanied by his wife, Hillary, in a matching sweatshirt.

George Bush, on the other hand, has cut down on his thyroid condition and is now charging around the country, banging on podiums and galvanising the Republican faithful into paroxysms of delight. As Mr Bush once said: "Can't stay in one place all the time. Gotta keep moving. Hippity-hop."

Ronald Reagan hardly ever took any exercise, and cruised his way through two terms. Another sign of the new, rejuvenated Mr Bush is his decision to appear on the MTV music network tomorrow night. When previously invited to participate in MTV's trendy *Choose or Lose* campaign programme, the president said he had no intention of becoming "a teeny-bopper at 68".

In the words of the programme host, 25-year-old Tabitha Soren: "The young vote could be the clincher ... I think they realise now I'm not going to be dancing around in a buster while I talk to him." MTV's *Rock the Vote* and *Choose or Lose* campaigns have registered about 1.5 million young voters this year.

The Bush campaign rhetoric has taken on a hip new tone. On Tuesday, while saying that the "environmental extremism" of Al Gore, Mr Clinton's running-mate, would leave America "up to our neck in owls", he said that the Democratic vice-presidential candidate was "crazy, way out". He added: "Way out, man."

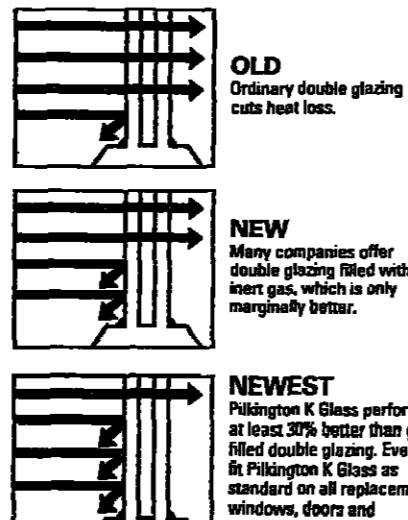
In an attempt to settle the troubling question of God's political affiliations, a diverse group of 42 American religious leaders has issued a statement saying that the deity is entirely impartial.

The statement, signed by Protestant, Jewish and Catholic leaders, was issued in response to the 140,000 pamphlets put out by the Operation Rescue anti-abortion group. They said that "to vote for Bill Clinton is to sin against God", a reference to the Arkansas governor's liberal stance on abortion. "Spiritual arrogance and political extremism" says the latest statement, "has no place in our public discourse".

Rabbi David Sapperstein, director of the Religious Action Centre of Reform Judaism, said: "God is not a Republican or a Democrat." This still leaves the sneaking suspicion that He may support Ross Perot.

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Growth cuts Democrats down to size

Economic expansion has taken some of the sting out of attacks on the Republicans, Anthony Howard writes

If Ross Perot's eccentric campaign has done nothing else, it has brought these issues very much into the electoral focus.

Alone among the candidates he has hammered away on the theme of how the present generation is storing up trouble for their children and grandchildren. He has even made the figures familiar: the national debt places a burden of \$31,496 on every American worker, and each is paying out \$2,292 this year to meet the interest charges.

Mr Perot has a plan, if not to liquidate the national debt then at least to eliminate the ever-soaring federal deficit. Involving a 50 per cent rise in the price of petrol, swingeing welfare cuts, income tax increases and cuts in government spending, it is probably the type of manifesto that only a billionaire could afford to put forward. But at least the independent candidate for the presidency can claim to have met the problem head-on.

The real challenge confronting whoever is elected will remain the one that has engaged the attention of a large number of voters. How can a stimulus be applied to the economy and steps simultaneously be taken to bring down the federal budget deficit, standing at a record \$290.2 billion? As that were not daunting enough, what can be done to reduce the national debt, which has now risen to almost \$4,100 billion?

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Pretoria denies sending troops as Savimbi men raid airport and shell city

Angola raises war alert after Unita guerrillas kill 15

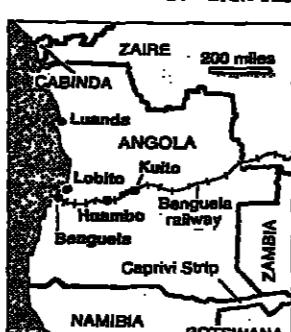
BY MICHAEL HAMLYN IN JOHANNESBURG AND SAM KILEY, AFRICA CORRESPONDENT

FOUR Portuguese citizens and 11 Angolans were killed in Luanda, the Angolan capital, yesterday when rebel Unita guerrillas attacked the international airport in Luanda. The Angolan government promptly proclaimed that the central provinces were in a state of war.

Soldiers from Unita (the Union for the Total Independence of Angola) also shelled the centre of Huambo in the central highlands and attacked the governor's residence as the country appeared to be sliding back into the 16-year civil war which ended last year with a toll of 300,000 people dead.

Angop, the state-controlled news agency, said a group of 40 Unita men attacked the area around Luanda airport overnight. Diplomats said the city of Huambo, 250 miles southeast of Luanda, had fallen to Unita. There were reports of fighting in the cities of Benguela, Lobito and Kuito. Angolan state radio said Unita had seized three municipalities in Huambo province and five in the coastal province of Benguela.

"The situation is catastrophic," the state radio said in a report on Huambo. It said that Unita forces had seized a hospital, police station and radio transmitter in the city. A government source said that the police had retreated to a barracks in Huambo and were defending the governor's palace and a nearby television station from any Unita attack. Three policemen were killed in fierce fighting in Lobito, a port south of Luanda, on



Thursday night, the radio said. It quoted the governor of Huambo province, Dumilide Rangel, as saying Unita was trying to take over the entire province but would not succeed.

Angolans have been on tenterhooks for the past month since the country's first democratic elections were won by the incumbent president, Jose Eduardo dos Santos, and the ruling Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA). Jonas Savimbi, the Unita leader, rejected the outcome of the elections and made allegations of fraud while threatening to restart the civil war which he fought with American and South African backing.

The United Nations pronounced that the elections had been "free and fair". The American and the South African governments have made it clear to Dr Savimbi that a return to the bush would get no backing from either Pretoria or Washington. Sources in the South African foreign ministry said recently that far from supporting Dr Savimbi,

it would be more likely that the South African military would "shoot down any plane trying to supply him".

The Portuguese victims of Unita appear to have been caught in heavy mortar and shell fire as members of Unita's armed wing, the Fala, attacked the central suburb of Cassenda. A government spokesman said that the Unita forces had tried to take over a munitions depot near the airport but had been thwarted by government soldiers.

Cassenda is the headquarters of the Angolan air force which was last month incorporated into a combined national army of Unita and MPLA forces which fell apart when Unita generals deserted to rejoin Dr Savimbi. The Unita radio station, Vorgan, claimed that the fighting in Huambo, which Dr Savimbi has made his base since he rejected the outcome of the elections, was started when members of the government's riot police opened fire on Unita supporters.

A senior diplomat in Luanda said: "I don't want to be the first to say that the civil war has restarted, but things are going from bad to worse and it is clear that the government will not now accept a power sharing deal with Savimbi."

As fighting flared, the South African government was accused by a black weekly newspaper in Johannesburg of sending troops to assist the Unita rebels, and of massing mercenaries on the border in Zaire. In Pretoria yesterday, R. F. "Pik" Botha, the South African foreign minister, denied the report.

New Nation, which is owned by a Roman Catholic church group, did not give any attribution to its assertions, but declared in its main front-page report that the South Africans sabotaged an electoral victory by the ruling MPLA, and threatened President dos Santos with a resumption of civil war if Unita was not accommodated in a national unity government.

The paper insisted that the South African Defence Force has sent the notorious Battalion 32 into southern Angola in anticipation of the resumption of hostilities. Ten South African helicopters had also

been sent through the Caprivi strip in northern Namibia as back-up to the battalion.

Battalion 32 is made up of former Angolan fighters, who were recruited into the force to tackle the guerrillas of the South West Africa People's Organisation (Swapo) during the fight for Namibian independence. They have since made themselves unpopular in South African black townships where they have been used in support of the police. President de Klerk has undertaken to disband the regiment.

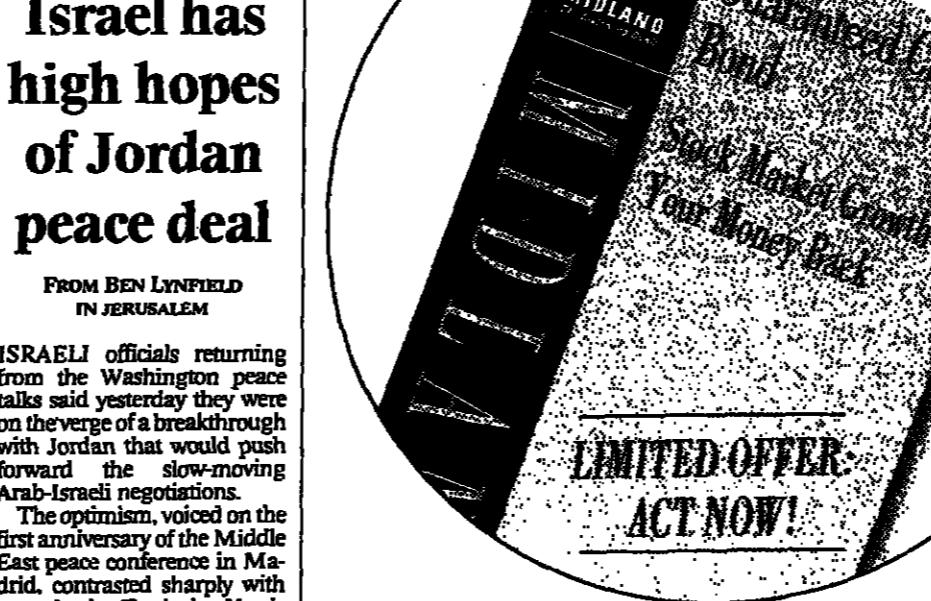
Mr Botha rejected the New Nation report point by point: the helicopters, the massed mercenaries and Battalion 32. Former national servicemen

in the South Africa armed forces, however, recalled that when they were sitting in a camp in Angola during South Africa's last foray there, they heard demands from the government in Pretoria on the BBC World Service that the South African armed forces had any men in Angola.

In New York, members of the United Nations Security Council were alarmed at the prospect of renewed civil war in Angola. They were preparing

ing a resolution threatening unspecified action against any party that violated the peace accords. In the resolution, clearly aimed at Unita, the council says that any party which fails to live up to its commitments "will be rejected by the international community". The council said that it was ready "to take all appropriate measures" on Angola.

Additional reporting from Reuter in Luanda.



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De Klerk faces challenge from enemy within

Like other leaders who have tried to reform authoritarian structures, President de Klerk is fending off attacks from all sides — including his own party members

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN JOHANNESBURG

For the first time since his stunning referendum victory in March, there is strong criticism of President de Klerk from within the ranks of his own party.

The discontent has been simmering for a month since the settlement with Nelson Mandela, the president of the African National Congress, which appears to have paved the way for the resumption of constitutional negotiations, but which has been seen by many in the National Party (NP) as having yielded too much to ANC pressure and to have alienated Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the Zulu Inkatha leader.

Matters have not been improved by Mr de Klerk's success in forcing onto the statute book a law on indemnity for past political crimes which had been vetoed by the Indian house in the tricameral parliament. Yesterday, the president's council, in theory a device for reconciling the wishes of the three houses in case of disagreement, but in practice packed with "all the president's men", recommended that the bill be signed into law.

According to David Breier, political correspondent of the Sunday Star in Johannesburg, "Nat MPs returning home after the disastrous short session of parliament privately expressed their unhappiness at the way the de Klerk government was floundering against the ANC." Mr Breier suggests: "De Klerk is increasingly being seen as a lame-duck president, losing the will to govern."

The party revolt first broke the surface when communists in the Afrikaans newspapers *Die Burger* and *Beeld*, which may usually be relied on to act as National

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After a look at Amsterdam's flourishing sex industry, Janet Daley asks how much moral control a democracy can impose

Amsterdam is a cautionary tale. A Euro-sceptic's vision of Hell, it is a city whose historical integrity has been almost completely extinguished by the polyglot commercialism which has turned most of Western Europe into a kind of pre-revolutionary Havana. The Kaastraat is now a cross between the nastiest of Oxford Street and the British seaside resort with legalised debauchery thrown in. Most of Europe's capitals now have a similar structure, of course. Ringed by miles of unlovely council estates, populated chiefly by those elements of the third world which the country once colonised, and the city centre given over to two industries: frenetic (if often self-defeating) money dealing and tourism. The main tourist theme varies: in London it is nostalgia; in Paris, political grandeur; in Rome, packaged Renaissance, and in Amsterdam it is sex.

Letting anything that will (and

there is scarcely an artefact in this city outside of a museum which is genuinely Dutch, apart from Delft pottery and tulip bulbs. It is no wonder that the draft of the Maastricht Treaty drawn up under the Dutch EC presidency was so mindlessly federalist. National identity is scarcely an issue for the Dutch at all. They must find British paranoia and French hauteur not so much irritating as unintelligible. But then, perhaps this has always been the secret of their success: allowing whatever foreign influx may be profitable simply to wash over and then be incorporated into the laissez faire cosmopolitanism which is all that there is of national character.

Letting anything that will (and

that pays its way) happen, the Dutch are the perfect liberal capitalists. On this reasoning, porn and prostitution are scarcely distinguishable from market gardening. Sexual services, after all, have a long and illustrious history which down-to-earth Dutch entrepreneurship feels no shame in continuing.

And, goodness, how comprehensively and ubiquitously they are supplied. However, whenever and wherever you want it: literature for every taste is available at every newsstand and bookshop. The real thing is advertised in neon and the signs are always in English or, at least, in those words which have become the Esperanto of sleaze: "non-stop porn", "sex show", "great girls". What remains of the

hippy mecca of 30 years ago is not freedom but hardcore sexual commerce, the cold-eyed purchase of every conceivable permutation.

Gangs of young Mediterranean

men arrive by the plane and train load, with money in their hands and fixed grins. Equivalent herds of English louts also roam the streets but they seem to be here mainly for the beer. With crashing impatience, they waste their time making obscene beckoning noises at decent women in the streets which is to miss the point completely. Amsterdam's reputation as a sex supermarket has nothing to do with most of its ordinary inhabitants. It is an industry which the conventional Dutch burghers allow to flourish without letting it im-

pinge on their own domestic re-

sponsibility. Foreigners may satiate themselves with depravity but the Dutch simply profit and, by decriminalising it all, avoid the threat to life and property which illicit markets breed.

This is not the Sixties in asp-

is sometimes claimed. The Sixties, in its first and purest incarnation, was about honesty and lack of

exploitation. Had its utopian vision ever materialised, there would have been no need for pornography or prostitution. Pleasure was to be shared without commitment, not sold without involvement. If there is a decade in which Amsterdam is trapped it is not the idealistic Sixties, but their degraded descendant, the Seventies. The interna-

tional homosexual fraternity has

taken Amsterdam as its European

base. Being here reminds me of

San Francisco in the early days

Oxford turns on its dark side

Matthew d'Anconca considers the tragic death of a brilliant working-class student

Like all true tragedies, the death of Tracy Coles, the brilliant Oxford freshman found dead in her college room, retold an old and bitterly familiar tale in this case, of youth destroyed by a despairing fear of failure. A week into her English studies at Lady Margaret Hall, this gifted, working-class teenager was apparently overwhelmed by the glittering intellectual highway that stretched in front of her. Like Thomas Hardy's Jude, she had decided that "there were no brains in her head equal to this business".

Oxford has never truly forgiven Hardy for his portrayal of the university as Christminster, a bastion of privilege burdened by "four centuries of bigness, gloom and decay" and closed to the provincial parvenu. Philip Larkin picked up the theme in *Jill*, the bleak wartime tale of a working-class English student reduced to an invalid by Oxford. Even Bill Clinton found the university "a little too class oriented".

These days dons go to extraordinary lengths to demystify the place, clear away the mythical cobwebs of Brideshead and persuade prospective students that a Tolstoyan intellect is not required to stay the course.

Yet in spite of the punting, the college balls and the architectural beauty, Oxford does have a darker side, caricatured in its reputation as the capital city of suicide. One college has a "suicide block", another has a "suicide staircase" and many are supposed to be haunted by undergraduates who took their lives. There had been no widely publicised cases since Darren Walters, a chemistry student at St John's, killed himself with cyanide in 1989, but I have learnt of three lesser known deaths which never made the front page.

Tutors who complain that the press and the adventures of Inspector Morse have bestowed a morbid glamour upon Oxford deaths do have a point. The murder of Rachel McLean, the suicide of Canon Gary Bennett and the accidental death of Olivia Channon would not have made such a splash if they had happened in Hull. But the myth of a city prone to human disaster contains a kernel of truth. The university is worried enough to have commissioned an official report on the extent of suicide among its students.

Whatever its findings, Oxford will agonise privately over what to

A reputation for insane pressure and intolerant privilege lives on

do about its latest tragedy. Some have already murmured that the death of Tracy Coles betrays a dearth of proper counselling in colleges, but they are wide of the mark. Few universities offer as much pastoral care, most of which is offered informally by tutors happy to play uncle or aunt, as well as teacher. On top of this there are women's groups, a confidential student helpline and a university counselling service with five staff.

If the cure there, then what is the disease? Oxford and Cambridge have not entirely shed their image as temples of insane pressure and intolerant privilege and it is true that there is much daft behaviour in both places: absurd dining clubs, subfusc and Edwardian costume-wearing spring to mind. A friend of mine was spat at

in public when he defined membership of the most select old school tie society. Snobbery scorned still demands its pound of flesh. But the point is that it has been scorned. Student newspapers, dons and university staff trumpet a belief in open access and scoff at the suggestion of nepotism.

Undergraduates tour state schools to debunk the legend of public school Oxford, while the headmaster of Eton has complained that the school's "understandings" with individual colleges are no more. The great summer balls are in slow decline, edged out by politically correct "events". Even Christ Church, where Sebastian Flyte ate plover's eggs with Charles Ryder, has hired a public relations officer to clean up its upper-crust image.

But all this social engineering does not stop Jude the Obscure being awestruck by the sight of the ancient stone which lines the high street. One of the delusions of John Major's Britain is the belief that a classless society can be built on fire and goodwill. Institutions as old and steeped in legend as Oxford do not lose their forbidding aura so easily, least of all to the brilliant daughter of a dinner lady and a foreman.

For a few the prospect of a seat among the privileged is simply unbearable, a travesty of a silent order. Which is why the myth of the dreaming spires persists outside Oxford; and why the modern-day Jude still occasionally wishes "he had never seen a book, that he might never see another, that he had never been born".

Worst treaty in town

WITH THE decisive timing for which she is renowned, Lady Thatcher is raising the temperature of the Maastricht debate in the Commons. "Both Distaste and Churchill said that the first duty of the Conservative Party was to uphold the constitution," writes Lady Thatcher. "The Maastricht Treaty would change it fundamentally."

Misleading analogies such as the European train leaving the station have been used in the debate she says. "If that train is going in the wrong direction it is better not to be on it at all. The Newspeak of Orwell has returned as EU speak."

Lady Thatcher is looking forward to a vigorous debate. In a parting shot she warns darkly: "Do not be disconcerted by any attempt to suggest that Maastricht is inevitable. That's what they said about communism."

But Maastricht has some redeeming virtues according to the former prime minister. "It is a charming town," she says. "I visited it in 1982 for a European summit. The people were most welcoming and I have always retained a great affection for the town."

The book will be published on Wednesday to coincide with

Pride in our imperial story

Jan Morris gives enthusiastic backing to plans for a museum devoted to the British empire

MARY EVANS PICTURE LIBRARY



British lion and cubs: Tenniel's view of the mother country and dominions at the height of empire was published in Punch in 1885

of it the pits into which ashes from the furnaces of locomotives were emptied. It is a tremendous waste and overloads, made for display, and only waiting to have its consequence restored.

This they are working on now, but for the most part the old station remains the haunting ghost of a building, dark and echoing, with the museum's minuscule founding staff working within the turreted facade, and much of the rest still cavernous and dusty. It needs the eye of hope (or distaste) to imagine it as it will one day be.

Then the station's grand entrance, at present invested by miscellaneous squalor, will open stately upon a plaza leading to the old Floating Harbour, the basin in

the city centre which was for so long one of the great ports of the empire. The link with the sea and the wide world will be immediate and symbolic, and will remind everyone that with Cabot's sailing for Newfoundland from this very port in 1497, the British Empire may well be said to have begun.

If this seems a flamboyant introduction to the theme, in general the message of the museum will be more educational than theatrical.

With luck the whole project will be completed by 1997, to coincide conveniently both with the quincentenary of Cabot's voyage, and the British withdrawal from the last great colony, Hong Kong; by then almost everything the empire ever did, almost everywhere

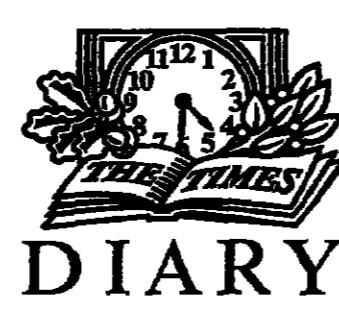
it held sway, almost all its origins and after-effects, will be recorded here in documents, photographs, film clips and taped interviews, and illustrated in the galleries, stables and ash-dumps of the old depot.

At the bottom of the museum's handout there is an image of a black and a white hand, clasped in amity or collaboration and to one of my temperament the project errs, if anything, in the direction of political correctness. Any tendency to

marianism, flag-waving, racial complacency or prejudicial language has been severely suppressed, and the more shameless of the old empire-builders would be astonished to find how modest is its approach to their jingoistic labours. And so of course it should be —

aim not sneering, only laughing, as one who has perhaps taken too great a pleasure in the superbia of British imperialism. Arrogance in such a museum would be unforgivable. The question really is, should such a museum exist at all? Is this the right historical moment? Is Bristol the proper place? Will the money ever be raised? Shall we really ever see the flags flying outside Brunel's great gateway, and the plaza running away to the Floating Harbour?

I hope so. I shall believe it when I see it, but I think the British should commemorate their empire, the most terrific of all their enterprises, with penance certain, but also with pride even (dare I say it) with a bit of swagger.



television footage of Bill Clinton burning the US flag during anti-Vietnam war protest? (The Democrats have of course denied that he did any such thing while studying at Oxford.) It can surely have nothing to do with the fact that Central Office has been giving discreet advice to Bush for several years and recently flew over two executives to meet the Republican campaign manager.

Solti's new cycle

WHEN Sir Georg Solti leaves London this weekend, after a week of celebrations for his 80th birthday and the triumph of his *Otello* at Covent Garden, he will return to his home in Italy with a novel present: Decca, his record company for more than 40 years, has given the octogenarian a mountain bike and helmet.

There were murmurs of disapproval when it was presented to him at a birthday party in the Hyde Park Hotel this week, but Solti himself was delighted.

The conductor, who has several homes dotted around the globe, enjoys a daily cycle when in Italy, and his fitness is renowned among the musicians of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra where he is musical director. More than one player has crawled off the tennis courts after a match with him muttering about his stamina.

Solti's only disappointment with the gift is that he was unable to ride the bike in London. It was shipped straight off to Italy. "I will be back in 10 years time," he says. "On my bike."

● Tony MP Elizabeth Peacock, sacked as PPS to Nick Scott for rebelling against the government over the pit closures, has become a heroine in Yorkshire. An opera is to

be sung in her honour at a junior school in her constituency next week, and furthermore — with overtones of Lord Howe — a story has been penned for her entitled "A Fearless and Ouspoken Sheep".

Dragged upstairs

HAVOC of a genteel kind broke out at Harrods yesterday, when staff who had been excitedly awaiting the arrival of Peter O'Toole to sign copies of his book *Loitering With Intent* received word that the actor could not last five minutes, let alone an hour without a drag on a cigarette.

Could the store's rigidly enforced no smoking policy be overturned, his agent enquired? If not the star, who reappears on the West End stage next week in *Our Song*, would be forced to cancel his appointment.

Disaster and disappointment were narrowly averted when a bright spark suggested that the book department might decamp to the Georgian Restaurant on the fourth floor, where smokers are allowed to puff away in peace. The suggestion was received enthusiastically, but there were concerns about the 30 eminent Japanese gentlemen who had booked a large table for lunch.

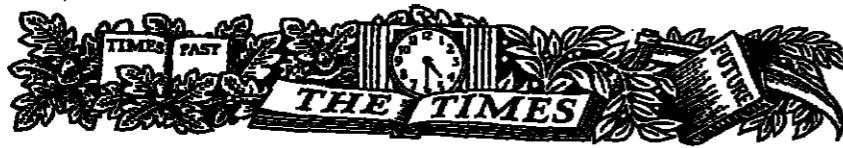
Screens were duly dispatched from the furniture department to

allow the Japanese party its privacy. They were having none of it. First of all they insisted on sitting bang next to the actor, then they each demanded to be photographed with him.

O'Toole, clutching a copy of a *Beano* and *Dandy* compilation, enjoyed it enormously. "I don't know how many of them speak English," says media director Michael Cole of the Japanese party, "but they were restored. There were flowers on the plinth when the attack was made and there will be flowers again."

● Faith Winter, who sculpted the statue of Bomber Harris in St Clement Danes Church, has contacted the Diary to express her sadness at yesterday's front page picture of the paint-splattered war hero. But exhibiting a spirit of which Bomber Command would be proud, the doughty artist says: "The memorial statue will be restored. There were flowers on the plinth when the attack was made and there will be flowers again."

John H. Smith



PATTEN'S PARADOXES

Britain's schools need both new freedoms and new rules

In the longest Education Bill in history, there was inevitably scope for self-contradiction. The Education Secretary, John Patten, wants to free schools from one set of rigid controls, but can do so only by imposing another set. When undemocratic forces have secured a hold on local institutions, it is difficult to seize them back without appearing totalitarian. The government deserves congratulation for its attempt yesterday to dislodge the vested interests that control the state school system. Instead it will be accused of excessive centralisation and worse.

How does an elected government give back to ordinary people power which has been taken from them by unaccountable agencies such as local education authorities? It is superficially paradoxical to urge the "freeing" of schools from local mandarins only to subsume them under a single Whitehall bureaucracy. It may seem still odder to exorcise the dogmatic obsessions of local left-wing ideologues by imposing a fixed curriculum from which no school may deviate. Is Mr Patten not simply replacing a variety of small tyrannies with a larger, and more inescapable one?

Yes and no. If this Bill seems to have conflicting motives — centralising control of the curriculum where it preaches greater diversity, for example — it is because the political manoeuvring of the education establishment has left little alternative. The interlocking influences of the schools inspectorate, the colleges of education, the teaching unions and the council education officers who dominate the staffing of state schools, present a skilful variety of different faces when threatened with change.

When, for example, attempts are made to raise primary school standards by regular testing, the curriculum advisory bodies insist that tests be consistent with the kind of anti-

didactic teaching practice that has been responsible for lowering standards in the first place. Teaching lobbies then complain that these tests are excessively time-consuming and wasteful of their energies.

It is not altogether surprising that in tackling this hydra-headed beast, even the well-intentioned reformer ties himself up in knots. True, there is something ominously Leninist about the idea that you can deliver power to the people only through the conduit of central government authority. But the particular mechanism which the Bill offers freedom for schools both to opt out of local authority control and to specialise and vary their approach within a basic minimum syllabus — is broadly sound.

The most fundamental principle is that parents' wishes must be paramount. But one important clause seems to breach it, that covering the incurably bad schools to which "flying" squads will be sent. These squads will be allowed to replace staff, and possibly even to steer the school towards opting out without a parental ballot. This is a drastic strategy. But what else is to be done with "sink" schools in which parents can do so little and care so little?

If this Bill is fatally undermined by its seeming inconsistencies, it will be a pity. Mr Patten seems sincerely committed to the idea of improving education for the majority of children. Further, he seems to interpret this to mean what most parents understand by it: restoring the importance of knowledge and visible achievement. Such a politically hazardous reorganisation ought not to be necessary simply to reinstate the doctrine that children are liberated, rather than oppressed, by instruction and that their self-esteem is enhanced, rather than undermined, by structured goals. That it has become necessary is not the fault of this government.

HIGH HOPES FROM JORDAN

The news from the Middle East is getting better

The announcement that Israel and Jordan have reached tentative agreement on a framework for peace brings the seventh round of Arab-Israeli talks to an unexpected positive conclusion. This may not be the hardest part of the Middle East peace process but it does at least show cause of continuing optimism.

The firming is important, as all parties to the talks know. With only three days to go before the election, the Bush administration has an achievement in one of the few foreign policy areas where American emotions are deeply engaged, and where James Baker's ability as a secretary of state was most convincingly shown.

For Yitzhak Rabin's government, the result comes none too soon. After four months in power, he had little to show for his electoral claim that he offered a way out of the negotiating cul-de-sac. He has used up much political capital in explicit acceptance of the land-for-peace formula and in taking on the settlement movement. The recent killing of five Israeli soldiers by Hezbollah fundamentalists and the fatal rocket attack on Kiryat Shmona — insensitively condoned by the chief Syrian negotiator — have so incensed most Israelis that the right-wing opposition is now calling for an immediate pull-out from the talks. King Hussein has also been able to ride the wave of domestic sympathy after his return from a cancer operation in America. He now feels strong enough to move forward without waiting for agreement by other Arab negotiators.

Jordan has had a de facto peace with Israel for many years. The king regularly meets Israeli leaders; Jordan has informal agreements on water, the environment,

tourism and border questions; and the daily traffic in people and goods across the Allenby bridge is evidence of the myriad links between the Jordan, the West Bank and Israel. None the less it is important that progress be made to proper diplomatic links.

In other areas of the talks, progress has been stubbornly slow. Israel had high hopes of the initial Syrian flexibility. There was even talk of an Assad-Rabin summit. Israel has conceded the need to return some of Golani, and was even contemplating acknowledgement of Syrian sovereignty over all the occupied heights. The Syrians have held out for full withdrawal, and do not want a peace that is not linked to a settlement of the Palestinian issue. Now Israeli public opinion may insist on no further movement until Syria, still the dominant force in Lebanon, curbs Hezbollah.

Meanwhile the moderate Palestinian negotiators, wary of the Hamas fundamentalists hold in the West Bank and Gaza, have also toughened their stance. Despite Israel's readiness to accept Palestinian negotiators from outside and its blind eye to PLO links, progress in defining Palestinian autonomy may be slow.

The significance of these latest talks — and those in Paris on regional issues — is that they depend less now on pressure from Washington. Whoever wins on Tuesday, peace is no longer such a hostage to electoral politics. Radical Arab states may test the resolve of a new Democratic president; but the parties convening again on November 9 are likely to pick up where they have just left off. Whether he wins or not, that will be one of George Bush's most solid contributions to world peace.

OLD STAR WARS

Galileo still teaches blinkered man to keep his mind open

The mills of the Church of Rome grind slow, but they grind exceeding small. Pope John Paul II is going to rehabilitate Galileo today, three and a half centuries after the Inquisition condemned him as a heretic for his view that the Earth goes round the sun. This pontifical U-turn is more important for the reputation of the Roman Catholic Church than for Galileo's which was sanctified by history long ago. But better late than never for popes to see the light.

By all accounts, including those older and more careful than Brecht's, Galileo was an impossible intellectual: arrogant, grumpy and obsessive. His adoption of the Copernican cosmology, verified by the Venetian telescopes he helped to perfect, seemed to threaten the literal interpretation of the Bible, which saw the Earth at the centre of all things, and the stars in the firmament of heaven as lamps placed up there for the benefit of man.

Galileo was dangerous because he wrote in vernacular Italian that the man in the Roman piazza could understand. He threatened the tenure of the Aristotelian vested interests in the universities. He was a millstone round the neck of the church in its war with the Reformation. But he was right.

He was also lucky. Other notorious victims of false accusations, such as the sensitive but misunderstood Emperor Tiberius and Richard III had detractors, Tacitus and Shakespeare, who wielded sharper and wittier pens than Cardinal Bellarmine and the hawks of the Inquisition. With better anacles, even three and a half centuries might not have been enough.

In his recantation before the Inquisition Galileo "abjured, cursed and detested" his heretical new view of the universe. Afterwards he allegedly muttered "Eppur si muove, it still moves", a remark that is in character even though the *ben trovato* quotation was not recorded until more than a century after his death.

Today, in the age to which Galileo was a midwife, scientists rather than popes are thought of as infallible. This pope, from the same bloody-minded but admirable nation as Copernicus, has made the improvement of relations between his Church and science one of the goals of his pontificate. Stephen Hawking, a Galileo of today, is among the celebrity scientists who have attended seminars arranged by the pope.

Professor Hawking is one of those seeking the ultimate equation of everything. "If we can find the answer to that — it would be the ultimate triumph of human reason — for then we should know the mind of God", he has said. That is a claim to omniscience as arrogant as that of the Inquisition.

The moral of Galileo, his condemnation and belated rehabilitation, is that man may be the measure of all things, but that ultimate certainty is never going to be available on this small, errant planet. Metaphysical answers, religious answers, even scientific answers, are provisional, until proved wrong. It is a turn-up for the good book that this humanist message is belatedly recognised, even by popes. It takes time. Human knowledge and nature are still worthy of much improvement. But the world does move.

Tory loyalties and the honour of the prime minister

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

From Ms Barbara Reid

Sir, As a long-standing, loyal and extremely active Conservative, it is obvious to me from the letter from Sir Peter Emery and 31 other Conservative MPs (October 29) that, now that the ill-judged and juvenile threat of a general election have disappeared, the refuge of loyalty is being restored.

No one doubts the achievement of John Major in winning the fourth term; I do not believe any other leader would have achieved this. Neither do we doubt his acclaim at party conference. However, what Sir Peter and others seem to forget is that some things are more important than blind party loyalty.

One of these is the continuance of our country as a parliamentary democracy, the cessation of which, I believe, is the heart of Maastricht because of the powers that would be transferred to Brussels. I would hope that in preserving this we would not lose a prime minister; but if we do, then I have no doubt that the Conservative party is big enough and resilient enough to cope quite adequately.

Anti-Maastricht Conservative MPs are currently under enormous pressure, but I hope that they adhere to their beliefs and are not swayed by the cheap arguments of the like put forward by Sir Peter.

Yours faithfully,
BARBARA REID,
8 Linck Place,
Hounslow, Middlesex.
October 29.

From Mr Peter Wright

Sir, A group of 32 Conservative backbenchers reprimand those MPs of their party who have, in their eyes, undermined government policy and the standing of the prime minister. They say that this criticism must not go unanswered "because it does not represent 90 per cent of Conservative members in Parliament, whose views in a democratic party should ensure full support for the prime minister".

This exhortation to party block votes, irrespective of the individual representatives' opinions, lends a new meaning to democracy in this country, though we have of course met it many times in totalitarian regimes.

Whatever the rights and wrongs of the matters to be decided, I have a considerable personal regard for an elected politician who on vital issues puts what he sees as the best interests of the country before those of his party. I may not agree with him, but I recognise his integrity.

Yours sincerely,
P. D. WRIGHT,
Windsong, Palestine,
Andover, Hampshire.
October 29.

From Mrs Christina Speight

Sir, Lord Boardman (letter, October 29) and the 32 Conservative MPs

Wartime records

From Mr Arnold Rosen

Sir, Your obituary (October 24) of Harry Williamson (Wulf Schmidt), the wartime double agent, prompts me to ask why her Majesty's government will not make related material readily available after a suitable period of time.

I act for John Moe, who was a double agent flown to this country by the Abwehr in April 1941. He is now 73 years of age and has been informed that copies of the messages which he sent to the Abwehr between 1941 and 1944 were destroyed some time prior to 1960.

I have been informed that he may not have access to his personal file. The reason given is that the security of operations depends upon all such records being protected. The government maintains that the highest standard of security is necessary, however old the records, to maintain confidence in the Security Service as its civilian defenders to be abandoned by the world to their fate?

For months Karadzic's planes, borrowed from Serbia, bombed Bosnian towns. As soon as the UN imposed an air exclusion zone, and the US and EC seriously threatened to enforce it, the bombing was temporarily halted.

The last thing Karadzic wants, despite all his bombast, is an actual confrontation with the West. Exactly the same would happen with the shelling of Sarajevo, a city which has until recently never been bombed

No 'Europhobic'

From Lord Blake, FBA

Sir, The headline to an item in your Diary of October 27 could give the impression that I am a "Europhobic". This is not so.

I am in general a supporter of Maastricht, but I have always believed that, on grounds of both national and party unity, the government should promise to submit the terms ultimately negotiated to a referendum, as was done in 1975 when Britain first entered the EC.

That belief has nothing whatever to do with Europhobia.

Yours faithfully,
BLAKE,
House of Lords.
October 27.

Letters to the editor that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Cold eye on Comet Swift-Tuttle

From Dr Brian G. Marsden

Sir, As the astronomer responsible for the initial suggestion that Comet Swift-Tuttle might conceivably hit the Earth on its next return, I was dismayed by the tone of your report and leading article (October 26).

The report said that "the chance of collision is calculated at one in 400". When pressed, I have mentioned a figure of more like one in 10,000 and the date of the possible encounter as August 14, 2126, rather than 2116.

Our great-grandchildren will no doubt welcome the reprieve. However, we simply do not know whether there is any danger. That is why I indicated that a worldwide effort should be made on this comet.

Discovered in 1862, Comet Swift-Tuttle takes about 130 years to travel around the Sun. Until it was picked up at the end of last September most astronomers thought that its period was 120 years and that it passed by unobserved some ten years ago. This ten-year delay shows that the orbit does not conform to the law of gravitation.

The motions of most comets are to some extent affected in addition by reactive forces to their expulsion of meteoric material, but Swift-Tuttle has carried this trait to an extreme — one very good reason for the prevalence of the associated Perseid meteor shower each August. It is precisely because of these forces that the computation is uncertain.

At this point we need not confirming calculations, but further observations. Starting around the middle of 1993, Comet Swift-Tuttle needs to be carefully observed with the large telescopes of the southern hemisphere and also with the Hubble space telescope, if and when it gets repaired. The observations should continue for at least five years, as the comet recedes far beyond the orbit of Saturn and fades dramatically.

At these larger distances Swift-Tuttle will pretty much return to its frozen state and negligible amounts of meteoric material will be expelled. The reactive forces should therefore disappear, and the orbit can be computed from the observations on the basis of gravitational theory alone.

If, even as a result of these new observations and computations, the threat remains, we shall at least have alerted our descendants to it. If the threat disappears, there are surely other comets and asteroids to take its place.

With the appropriate construction and co-ordinated use of an army of new telescopes set up around the world it should be possible, over the course of a few decades, to discover and identify almost all the asteroids and a large proportion of the comets that might collide with the Earth during the next several centuries.

In the unlikely event of our calculating a sure hit, the offending object will in all probability make several revolutions around the Sun before the fatal day. This will allow opportunities both for intensive study of the object and, eventually, our attacking it before it can attack us.

Yours etc.
BRIAN G. MARSDEN,
Harvard-Smithsonian Center
for Astrophysics,
Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA.
October 27.

Harder to remember

From Mr Ian McMillin

Sir, The letter from Rear Admiral I. G. W. Robertson (October 22), president of the Craft (Can't Remember a Flipping Thing) Club, recalled to my mind (and this is a surprise to me) the correspondence initiated in your columns by Admiral Sir James Eberle (September 13, 1991) concerning his suffering from LMS (loss of memory syndrome).

Respondents to his remarks included Brigadier M. P. Ford, Sir Henry McDowell, Mr Peter Tozer, and other worthy sufferers. Mr Alan Green referred to a report that the late Sir Ray Brown, co-founder of Racal Electronics, had said that when entering a room full of familiar faces, the only name he could bring to mind was Alzheimer.

This all increases my own anxiety, when so many leading professionals in our armed services ("now where is that confounded bullet?"), industry, politics and the social structure generally seem to be stricken.

Yours faithfully,
IAN McMILLIN,
23 East Common,
Harpden, Hertfordshire.

From Mrs Gweneth Cannon

Sir, While many people may think that the ribbon streamers flying from the aerial of my car radio denote a preference for a particular football team, that is not their purpose. When I come out of my local shopping centre into the massive car park, I look for the ribbons and know that my car is parked underneath them.

Yours faithfully,
GWENETH CANNON,
5 Carlton Close, NW3.

Weekend Money letters, page 24



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
October 30: The Queen, Air Commodore-in-Chief, this morning presented a New Colour to the Royal Air Force Regiment at Royal Air Force Catterick.

Her Majesty was received at Royal Air Force Leeming by the Commandant General, Royal Air Force Regiment (Air Vice-Marshal David Hawkins) and Group Captain Philip Rose (Station Commander).

The Queen drove to Royal Air Force Catterick, and was received by Group Captain Steven Bremerton Martin (Commandant) and, having been received with a Royal Salute, inspected the Parade.

After the presentation, Her Majesty was graciously pleased to address the Regiment and the Commandant General replied.

The Queen was entertained to lunch in the Officers' Mess and subsequently met representatives of the Regiment's personnel, families and Regimental Associations.

The Duchess of Grafton, Sir Kenneth Scott and Major James Park were in attendance.

The Duke of Edinburgh arrived at Cambridge Station today and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Cambridge, Sir James Crome.

His Royal Highness, Chancellor of the University and Visitor of the College, visited Hughes Hall this morning.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Honorary Member, also visited the Hawks' Club.

His Royal Highness this afternoon visited the Isaac Newton Institute and the School of Veterinary Medicine.

The Duke of Edinburgh later visited St Mary Magdalene Church, Madingley, and planted a tree.

Brigadier Miles Hunt-Davis was in attendance.

By Command of The Queen, the Baroness Trumpington, Baroness in Waiting, was present at Heathrow Airport, London, this afternoon upon the Arrival of the King of Norway, and welcomed His Majesty on behalf of Her Majesty.

The Prince Edward, President, the Commonwealth Games Federation, today launched the "Royal Ladies" Collector Coin Programme at Australia House, Strand, London WC2.

Miss Richard Warburton was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
October 30: The Prince of Wales today visited Avonmouth and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Avon (Sir John Wills, Bt).

His Royal Highness, President, The Prince's Trust and The Prince's Youth Business Trust, met volunteers and grant recipients at the Seafarers' International Centre, Avonmouth.

The Prince of Wales subsequently opened the Wessex Water Combi Bio-Drier at Kingstone Lane, Avonmouth.

Commander Richard Ayard RN was in attendance.

His Royal Highness, President, Cornwall Crafts Association, this afternoon received members of the Association.

The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, President, the Girl Guides Association, this afternoon visited Bristol and opened the Binton Guide and Brownie Head-reary, received the guests.

quarters, Cherry Gardens, Bilton. Her Royal Highness was received on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for the County of Avon (Sir John Wills, Bt).

The Lady Juliet Townsend was in attendance.

The Duke of Gloucester this morning visited Llancair Fawr Manor, Nelson, Mid-Glamorgan.

Afterwards, The Duke of Gloucester opened the Mid-Glamorgan Centre for Art and Design Technology, Pontpandy.

In the afternoon The Duke of Gloucester opened the Maesteg Valley Railway.

His Royal Highness was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Mid-Glamorgan (Mr Murray McLaggan).

In the evening The Duke of Gloucester, Colonel-in-Chief, the Gloucestershire Regiment, was present at the Annual Dinner of the Officers of the Regiment Army and Navy Club, Pall Mall, London, W1.

Major Nicholas Barne was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
October 30: The Duke of Kent arrived at Heathrow Airport, London, this morning from Los Angeles.

Commander Roger Walker, RN, was in attendance.

The Duchess of Kent arrived at Heathrow Airport, London, this evening from Vienna.

Mrs Julian Tomkins was in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
October 30: Princess Alexandra, accompanied by the Hon. Sir Angus Ogilvy, today arrived in the Caribbean to undertake visits to Trinidad and Tobago, St Vincent, Barbados, Grenada and St Lucia.

Royal engagements
Today Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, will open the new science and technology block at Derby University at 1.00.

The Duchess of Gloucester, as Patron of the Bobath Centre, will attend a dinner dance at the London Hilton on Park Lane at 7.15.

Tomorrow: The Princess Royal, as part Master of the Farriers' Company, will attend the UK Chasers "Case of All Time" at Pontins Fields Estate, Cirencester, at 2.00.

The Duke of Gloucester will attend a service of celebration for the life and work of Group Captain Lord Cheshire in Lincoln Cathedral at 1.45.

The Duke of Kent will attend a performance of Verdi's *Requiem* by the Royal Choral Society at the Festival Hall at 7.25.

Meeting
India League

The Indian High Commissioner and the India League held a meeting yesterday at India House to commemorate the memory of V.K. Krishna Menon, the first high commissioner to the UK and founder of the league. The High Commissioner and Mr S.N. Gourisaria, honorary general secretary, received the guests.

All Saints' Day

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC 9.30 AM; 11 S Euch. Spanish Mass (Mozart), O quam gloriosum (Vicotor), Rev P. Pilkington: 3.15 Responses, St. John's Canticle, Stanford in A, Bedell and for Gloriæ 6.30 Sermon & Compline. The Precentor.

YORK MINSTER: 8 & 8.45 HC 10 S Euch. How great are we (Grieg), O quam gloriosum (Vicotor), Canon: 11.30 M. Responses (Mozart), Nobile in minor, 4 R. Mass (Mozart), In the new Psalm gloriosum (Vicotor), Canon: 11.30 S. Compline. The Precentor.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL: 8 HC 10.30 M. Responses (Leighton Jones), Te Deum, How great are we (Grieg), Responses in E, Rev C. Hill: 11.30 HC, Mairi's Mass (Havergal), Perit autem filiulus (Mendelssohn): 3.15 S. Collegetum Regale (Crutt). The Precentor.

ST. PAUL'S: 11.30 S. Compline. The Precentor.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC 10 M. Responses (Rose), Stanford in A, Canon: 11.30 M. Responses (Grieg), Responses in E, Rev C. Hill: 11.30 HC, Mairi's Mass (Havergal), Perit autem filiulus (Mendelssohn): 3.15 S. Collegetum Regale (Crutt). The Precentor.

ST. GEORGE'S CHAPEL: 8 HC 10 S Euch. How great are we (Grieg), Canon: 11.30 S. Compline. The Precentor.

TEMPLE CHURCH: 8 HC 10.30 M. Responses (Leighton Jones), Te Deum, How great are we (Grieg), Responses in E, Rev C. Hill: 11.30 HC, Mairi's Mass (Havergal), Perit autem filiulus (Mendelssohn): 3.15 S. Collegetum Regale (Crutt). The Precentor.

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NEWS

Major lures back wavers

■ John Major's hopes of isolating hardcore Euro-rebels were boosted last night as the government's careful motion for Wednesday's Maastricht debate began to bring wavers back to the fold. It calls for treaty ratification legislation to proceed without mentioning Maastricht. Page 1, 2

Carey condemns marketing of sex

■ Dr George Carey, Archbishop of Canterbury, condemned "the constant marketing of explicit sex and human pain". His office said the pop star Madonna, David Mellor, the former heritage secretary, and the events of the summer, which would include coverage of the royal family, were examples of what he had in mind. Page 1

Sex case

A man who admitted sexually abusing his teenage daughter could face charges after an announcement that Nottinghamshire police are to see if fresh evidence is available to support a prosecution. Page 3

Lamont warning

Norman Lamont has warned cabinet ministers that not only would early interest rate cuts be ruled out if they failed to meet the £24.5 billion public expenditure ceiling, but that rates could actually rise. Page 5

Patten scheme

A powerful new bureaucracy to take control of education as schools opt out of council control is proposed in a bill put before parliament by John Patten, the education secretary. Page 6

Love accused

Love drove a young customs officer to breach the Official Secrets Act and tip off a suspected drug-smuggler that he was being watched, an Old Bailey judge was told. Page 7

Women occupy a Whitehall bastion

Kenneth Clarke has made a woman his principal private secretary, ending 200 years of male domination of the post. He now has Whitehall's only private office staffed entirely by women. The home secretary said that he had noticed an improvement in his own behaviour. Page 8



Mixed emotions: miners prepare for the future after clocking off for the last time at Grimethorpe colliery, South Yorkshire, yesterday

BUSINESS

Crash dive: Control Securities, the Belhaven brewing and property group, has crashed to a loss of £196 million in the year to end-March after making savage write-downs on its property portfolio. Page 17

Markets: The prospect of further cuts in interest rates undermined the pound, which closed down 1.05 pence at DM2.4086 and 1.35 cents lower at \$1.5620. But shares were lifted by hopes of lower borrowing costs and the FT-SE 100 index closed up 16 at 2,658.3.

SPORT

Boxing: Lennox Lewis hopes to clinch a chance to compete for the world heavyweight title by beating Donovan "Razor" Ruddock at Earls Court tomorrow. Pages 30, 32

Golf: A resurgent Sandy Lyle took the halfway lead at the Volvo Masters at Valderrama with a round of 70 yesterday. Nick Faldo struggled to a 79. Page 28

ARTS

Debut delight: Benedict Nightingale welcomes the West End debut of one of America's most contentious musicals, Stephen Sondheim's *Assassins*. His verdict: Sam Mendes's production confirms the minority view that *Assassins* is one of Sondheim's more fascinating excursions in the offbeat. Weekend, page 8

Books: The true message of the selected letters of Philip Larkin seems to be that "life" does not matter very much, so let's have another drink and put on another jazz record. Saturday Review

Record reviews: Veteran rocker Neil Young looks back two decades for inspiration on his new album, *Harvest Moon*, while Bon Jovi show no signs of running to flab with *Keep The Faith*. Meanwhile, jazz pianist Dave Brubeck approaches his 72nd birthday by striking a valedictory note on his new release, *Once When I Was Very Young*. Weekend, page 1

ALAN COREN

Knife grinders "wore khaki balaclava helmets and mittens with the fingers cut off, and Great War medals... to show that they were not cowards, they had done their bit, they had gone right through the Last Lot." Weekend, page 8

VALERIE GROVE
A lament for her old college. "I... am trying to raise money for... Girton — the one that broke down the male bastion and offered women the chance to take degrees for the first time." Weekend, page 1

LYNNE TRUSS

Heaven lies in a garden lauded by writer Clement Scott 100 years ago. "The Mill House has not changed much from when Scott brought his famous friends down from London — Swinburne, Henry Irving". Weekend, page 3

CINEMA

ALAN COREN
Knife grinders "wore khaki balaclava helmets and mittens with the fingers cut off, and Great War medals... to show that they were not cowards, they had done their bit, they had gone right through the Last Lot." Weekend, page 8

VALERIE GROVE
A lament for her old college. "I... am trying to raise money for... Girton — the one that broke down the male bastion and offered women the chance to take degrees for the first time." Weekend, page 1

Patten's paradoxes

The government deserves congratulation for its attempt yesterday to dislodge the vested interests that control the state school system. Instead it will be accused of excessive centralisation and worse. But schools need both new freedoms and new rules. Page 13

Hope from Jordan

The announcement that Israel and Jordan have reached tentative agreement on a framework for peace brings the seventh round of Arab-Israeli talks to an unexpected positive conclusion. Page 13

Cosmic?

Pope John Paul II is going to rehabilitate Galileo formally today. This pontifical U-turn is more important for the reputation of the Roman Catholic Church than for Galileo's, which was sanctified by history long ago. Page 13

WEEKEND

Weekend pick

A maddening hallowe'en clash tonight overlaps a left-over Screen One called *Ghostwatch* (BBC 1) with Oliver Stone's movie *Wall Street* (ITV). But Sunday scheduling allows consecutive viewing of Stephen Lowe's thriller *Tell Tale Hearts* (BBC 1) and, on BBC 2, Alan Parker's flamboyant 1988 film *Mississippi Burning*. Listings, Weekend section

Fencing in: America was built on openness, but as recession bites deep and the people prepare for the polls, the American mind is closing. Ben Macintyre discovers a disunited United States. Page 4

Carey on Gao: The serpent of old Nile had an insatiable appetite for power and sex; 2,000 years later we still have a taste for her. Page 16

FO chic: A £110 million refurbishment of the Victorian splendour of the Foreign Office makes one wonder why the sun ever set on the great British empire. Page 30

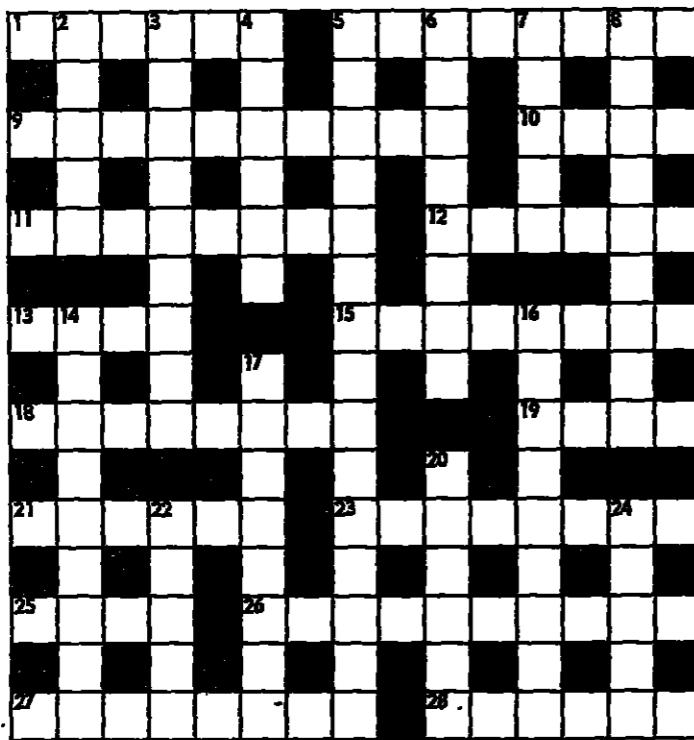
Travel: Jan Morris visits the Low Desert of California and finds its eternal sands under a dual invasion by latterday pioneers. Saturday Review

Whoosh: As Bonfire Night approaches, Anthony Gardner celebrates pyrotechnical magic on scales small and large

Time out: Adaptable clothes fit for anytime, anywhere and what to do with a ski too many. Chuck it out

News from Britain suggests the following advice to voters wavering in their support for a new administration: hang in there. In last April's elections, John Major's margin of victory came from many newly minted Labour supporters getting cold feet. They now regret it. Message a mediocre, exhausted administration may not be a safe bet. *The New Republic*

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,064



ACROSS

- 1 Fellow-orphan becomes a playwright (6).
- 5 Leaves unfermented, sickly-looking drink (3).
- 9 Wicked Hun stupidly given permission (10).
- 10 Prompt to propose (4).
- 11 Scale down for publication (8).
- 12 He won't tolerate duds (6).
- 13 Novel about old woman's home (4).
- 15 Live coals start to blaze away (4,4).
- 18 Councillor returns thanks to child — Tiny Tim (8).
- 19 Stay, but it's correct for outside pair to leave (4).
- 21 Delay exhibit (4,2).
- 23 Head so burdened, with many points? (8).
- 25 Skirt centre of island (4).
- 26 I am taken in by deceitful blight's trick (10).
- 27 Distant object shows the least change (8).
- 28 Camp-follower is more refined in speech (6).

DOWN

- 2 Freeholder has nowhere to move when he leaves (5).
- 3 Is it suitable to house painters? (9).
- 4 Money brings sorrow, we're told (6).
- 5 Turn silent, but be understood (2,7,6).
- 6 Be reconciled to risk (8).
- 7 Censured by Speaker for raising question endlessly (5).
- 8 See proved unreliable — get tap (9).
- 14 Sort of progression on a musical instrument (9).
- 16 Stuffing food under compulsion (9).
- 17 Unleavened bread — man is working on getting it to rise (8).
- 20 He captured horses with stunted tails, say (6).
- 22 Wander in the snow (5).
- 24 Exclusive part of Babel — it escaped (5).

Concise Crossword, page 18

Weekend section

Solution to Puzzle No 19,058

ODDUTCH BACKSUP
GERAIH HUA
DETRAINED AMBER
ORMD FSO
WHORL WELLFOUND
NI RDMI
STANDINGORDERS
METG
ACROSS THE BOARD
ROERGE
GOLDFINCH RADI
ILOEAC
NAMUR PLAINSONG
AOOGODA
LIPREAD SWEETEN

Solution to Puzzle No 19,063

HALMA FINLANDIA
IODAEELING
GERMANIUM OASIS
HCM LEUMA
FLAWS UPSADABLY
LWRIS
INCLINE SOUPSUP
EUNNAE
RETREAT FIDDLER
AHASE
HANDSDOWN REARM
IEHUGPDE
NIOBE GUILLEMOT
DUBHE OIE
INSTANTEN TENSOR

PARKER DUOFOLD
A prize of a superb Parker Duofold International Fountain Pen, with an 18 carat gold nib and fully guaranteed for the lifetime of the original owner will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0898 100 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London
Kent, Surrey, Sussex
Dorset, Hants & IOW
Wits, Glos, Avon, Soms

North & West
Beds, Herts & Essex
Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambs
West Mid & St Gm & Gwent

Strata, Herefs & Wrcs
Central Midlands

East Midlands
Lincs & Humberside

Dyfed & Powys
Gwynedd & Cwmd

NW England
W & S Yorks & Dales

N E England
Cumbria & Lake District

S & W Scotland
W Central Scotland

E Central Scotland
Glenplan & E Highlands

N W Scotland
Caithness, Orkney & Shetland

N Ireland

Weathercall is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0898 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks

M-ways/roads M4-M1

M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T

M-ways/roads Dartford T-M23

M-ways/roads M23-M4

M25 London Orbital only

National traffic and roadworks

National motorways

West Country

Wales

Midlands

East Anglia

North & Central England

Scotland

Northern Ireland

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

WEATHER

the clearance of any inland mist and fog. Later, rain will push into northern parts. Northern Ireland will be cloudy although perhaps bright in the southeast at first; cloud will thicken bringing rain from the northwest this afternoon. Scotland will be cloudy, and rain, preceded by snow on hills, will come from the northwest to reach the borders by dusk. Outlook: unsettled, with rain.

AERONAUTICS

MIDDAY: 1. Thunder, d. drizzle, lg. log, s. sun, sl. sket, sn. snow, t. tail, c. cloud, r. rain, C F

ALASKA: 19 55 1. Lulus, 20 55 1. Madell, 21 55 1. Majors, 22 55 1. Melode, 23 55 1. Melode, 24 55 1. Melode, 25 55 1. Melode, 26 55 1. Melode, 27 55 1. Melode, 28 55 1. Melode, 29 55 1. Melode, 30 55 1. Melode, 31 55 1. Melode, 32 55 1. Melode, 33 55 1. Melode, 34 55 1. Melode, 35 55 1. Melode, 36 55 1. Melode, 37 55 1. Melode, 38 55 1. Melode, 39 55 1. Melode, 40 55 1. Melode, 41 55 1. Melode, 42 55 1. Melode, 43 55 1. Melode, 44 55 1. Melode, 45 55 1. Melode, 46 55 1. Melode, 47 55 1. Melode, 48 55 1. Melode, 49 55 1. Melode, 50 55 1. Melode, 51 55 1. Melode, 52 55 1. Melode, 53 55 1. Melode, 54 55 1. Melode, 55 55 1. Melode, 56 55 1. Melode, 57 55 1. Melode, 58 55 1. Melode, 59 55 1. Melode, 60 55 1. Melode, 61 55 1. Melode, 62 55 1. Melode, 63 55 1. Melode, 64 55 1. Melode, 65 55 1. Melode, 66 55 1. Melode, 67 55 1. Melode, 68 55 1. Melode, 69 55 1. Melode, 70 55 1. Melode, 71 55 1. Melode, 72 55 1. Melode, 73 55 1. Melode, 74 55 1. Melode, 75 55 1. Melode, 76 55 1. Melode, 77 55 1. Melode, 78 55 1. Melode, 79 55 1. Melode, 80 55 1. Melode, 81 55 1. Melode, 82 55 1. Melode, 83 55 1. Melode, 84 55 1. Melode, 85 55 1. Melode, 86 55 1. Melode, 87 55 1. Melode, 88 55 1. Melode, 89 55 1. Melode, 90 55 1. Melode, 91 55 1. Melode, 92 55 1. Melode, 93 55 1. Melode, 94 55 1. Melode, 95 55 1. Melode, 96 55 1. Melode, 97 55 1. Melode, 98 55 1. Melode, 99 55 1. Melode, 100 55 1. Melode, 101 55 1. Melode, 102 55 1. Melode, 103 55

**BUSINESS 17-26**

Profile: Company doctor who is curing Ferranti

**SPORT 27-32**

Is Lennox Lewis the best in the world?

**RACING 28**

Lester Piggott leads British hopes in Florida

WEEKEND SPORTING FIXTURES PAGE 27

THE TIMES 2

SATURDAY OCTOBER 31 1992

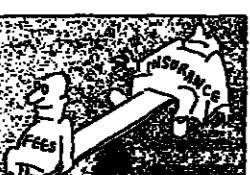
ROBIN MAYER

WEEKEND MONEY**NON-STOP**

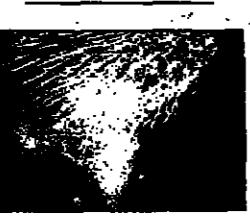
Robert Maxwell-style pension abuses cannot be stopped by legislation, Margaret Grainger, Opas president, says Page 21

SLOW START

A unit trust investing in permanent interest bearing shares almost failed to get off the ground Page 23

FAIR FEES

Private medical insurance is costly, because treatment is expensive, not because insurers overcharge Letters, page 24

EXPLOSION

Claims on personal accident policies for children soar around bonfire night, a prime time for injuries Page 22

THE POUND

US dollar 1.5632 (-0.0083)
German mark 2.4112 (-0.0058)
Exchange index 78.4 (-0.2)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 1963.8 (+15.1)
FT SE 100 2658.3 (+16.0)
New York Dow Jones 3226.55 (-19.72)*
Tokyo Nikkei Avge 16767.40 (-170.31)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 8%
3-month Interbank: 7%
3-month eligible bills: 6%
US: Prime Rate: 6%
Federal Funds: 2%
3-month Treasury Bills: 2.95-2.94%
30-year bonds: 5.5-5.5%

CURRENCIES

London: £ 51.5826
New York: \$ 1.5830*
DM: 4091 S 0.4240*
Swf: 1492 S 0.7679*
Ffr: 1522 S 0.7522*
Yen: 152.47 S 1.2325*
Index: 78.4 S 63.7
ECU: ED 815887 SDR: 0.833493
ECU1.22659 SDR1.11932

GOLD

London Fixing: £M 832.25
Close: 844.339.95
217.25-217.75
New York: \$ 339.85-340.35*

NORTH SEA

rent (Nov) \$19.25/bbl (\$19.50)

RETAIL PRICES

PT 138.4 September (1987-100)
Denotes midday trading price

Property disposals planned to cut debts

Control Securities incurs £196m loss after writedowns

BY NEIL BENNETT
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

CONTROL Securities, the Belhaven brewing and property group, has suffered a loss of £196 million in the year to end-March after making savage writedowns on its property portfolio.

The group is being kept afloat by a banking standstill agreement and plans to meet lenders on November 18 to reveal reconstruction proposals.

The standstill expires at the end of November and unless Control manages to extend it or put together a reorganisation plan it will be unable to pay the heavy interest bills due on its £182 million borrowings in December. The group's bondholders have agreed to delay interest payments until January.

The company is also being sued by the liquidators of the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International for

Belhaven brewer Control Securities, beset by problems, shocked the City with huge losses

£5.8 million, and by Nazmu Virani, the former chairman, and his two brothers, who were ousted from the board last April.

Control is planning to sell gradually its investment property portfolio, now valued at £138 million, to pay off debts.

The disposals would leave the group with its chain of 660 public houses and the Belhaven Brewery, a chain of hotels in Spain and some residual property interests.

The £196 million loss was caused by property write-downs and interest charges and compares with a £1.3 million loss in the previous year. Control has reduced the

value of its investment properties by £152 million to £210 million, and suffered a £70 million fall in the value of other properties, including the public houses. The group is also setting aside £5.5 million to cover banking fees. The loss has cut the group's net assets by 87 per cent to £37 million.

The write-offs wiped out the group's £25.9 million operating profit, which was depressed due to the lack of any contribution from property trading. Despite the problems, Belhaven increased profits and the Spanish hotel operation performed well despite the recession.

Sydney Robin, Control's new chairman, said: "The company's accounts include writedowns which are disastrous by any standards... heavy squalls in the summer threatened many times to overwhelm the company."

Control has hired Hill Samuel, the merchant bank, to work on a reconstruction and is planning to hire property specialists to help with the disposal of the portfolio.

Loans from the group's 14 banks, led by Barclays, are secured on Control's property portfolio. The company is servicing its loans fully at present but has told the banks that it will not have the cash to meet interest payments in December.

A year ago, Control's head offices were raided by the Serious Fraud Office as part of its investigation into BCCI, and the company's shares were suspended. Mr Robin said: "The search not only caused the company to lose credibility with many of its creditors and other parties, but caused significant disruption to the attention that could be paid to the company's affairs."

In March, Mr Virani was charged with conspiracy to present false accounts. Soon afterwards, he and his brothers were dismissed from Control.

Control now appointed John Kerslake, a former corporate development director at Jefferson Smurfit, as finance director, and plans to hire a new chief executive once the group's financial position is more secure.

Mr Virani is preparing his defence in the former head office of Control Securities in Victoria, central London, which he has kept despite being ousted from the company's board in April last year.

Less than two years ago, Mr Virani was one of the most successful entrepreneurs in the property sector, and the richest Asian businessman in Britain, with a wealth estimated to be over £80 million.

The Virani family arrived in Britain in 1972 as refugees from Uganda. They bought a small supermarket in Dulwich, south London, and developed it into a small chain.

Mr Virani diversified into hotels when his father had a heart attack and needed an easier job. In 1985, Mr Virani bought a stake in Control Securities, an ailing property company, and expanded by issuing shares for acquisitions.

He did business with many of the leading property entrepre-



neurs of the eighties, including John Kibbitt, Tony Clegg and Gerald Ronson.

An Ismaili Moslem, Mr Virani also claimed that he met his best business contacts in the mosque. Control's former offices bear witness to the company's former power and present difficulties. The Islamic cladding is now deserted and ankle-deep in dead leaves.

Upstairs, Mr Virani works in his spacious office, helped by a few loyal assistants. On one shelf are photographs of him with Margaret Thatcher, Prince Charles and the Aga Khan, and a cricketing trophy from a match between Control and BCCI in 1990.

Mr Virani has lost most of his wealth. His stake in Control was once worth more than £60 million. The shares have been suspended at 16.5p since October last year, and are thought to be nearly worthless.

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Virani remains on the defensive

BY OUR BANKING CORRESPONDENT

WHILE Control Securities struggles for survival, Nazmu Virani, its former chairman, faces his own battle. Last March, he was charged with conspiring with Mohammed Hafez, an executive from the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International, to present false accounts to the value of \$4 million after a Serious Fraud Office investigation. He has been remanded on bail of £1.25 million until December 1.

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Paint it red: Hugh Lang, chairman, left, and Jamie Borwick said production was down to 1,800 vehicles

Coopers agrees to pay \$95m

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON
IN NEW YORK

THE sharp fall in sterling's value since Black Wednesday meant Reed International and the Dutch Elsevier group had to renegotiate merger terms to create one of the world's five biggest publishing groups because of the relative fall in value of the British business.

Instead of an 11.5 per cent holding in Elsevier, meant to reflect Reed's larger size, the British partner will take just 5.8 per cent once their operating activities are merged. The effect will be that Reed will own the equivalent of 53 per cent of the merged business against almost 56 per cent.

Action was brought by creditors and investors who claimed losses as a result of a 1986 audit in which Coopers certified MiniScribe profits of \$22.7 million. The true figure was subsequently shown to be \$12.2 million.

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Elsevier merger terms renegotiated by Reed

BY MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

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In 1989, outside directors and new auditors of MiniScribe, a Colorado-based hard disk maker charged that company managers had "perpetrated a massive fraud".

The outside directors reported that senior company officials had broken into trunks containing auditor's paperwork and altered figures to inflate stock values by \$1 million. Bricks had been packaged to look like \$4.3 million of hard disks and sent to distributors, to be counted as stock in transit.

MiniScribe filed for bankruptcy in January 1990 and began liquidation 16 months later.

It was alleged that Coopers had overlooked MiniScribe's bogus sales and questionable purchase orders and permitted the company to make inadequate reserves for returned goods and bad debts.

Taxi maker skids deeper into loss

BY PHILIP PANGALOS

MANGANESE Bronze Holdings, which makes London taxis, slid deeper into the red as exceptional closure costs and the tough times faced by London's cabbies took their toll.

There was a pre-tax loss of £2.45 million in the year to July 31, against a loss of £949,000 last time. Closure of a foundry in Darlington led to an exceptional charge of £1.73 million. Turnover climbed to £71.2 million (£69.7 million).

Jamie Borwick, managing director, said only 1,800 vehicles had been produced, against 2,300 the previous year. The final dividend is maintained at 1p. Manganese shares fell 5p to 66p.

Why Pay For Advice You Don't Need?

\$2,000	\$43	\$25	42%
\$8,000	\$135	\$65	52%
\$15,000	\$198	\$70	65%

BUSINESS PROFILE: Eugene Anderson

Doctor puts Ferranti on a slimming cure

The affable Texan hired to turn round Britain's ailing missile-maker has aged in the process, reports Angela Mackay

Eugene Anderson took on much more than a formidable task when he became chairman and chief executive of Ferranti International almost three years ago. He knew that the defence systems group had been devastated by fraud and might not survive, despite intensive care. What he could not have known was that the Cold War would end and lead to drastic cuts in defence budgets, while a dull economic climate would turn into prolonged recession.

Anderson has largely completed the financial resuscitation of the group by selling many businesses, sharply reducing the workforce and refocusing the company. But Ferranti's long-term future is still in doubt. Anderson, 54 and a Texan, is lean and fit, but he used to look younger than his years. The rigours of his current job have changed that. So, with hindsight, would he still have accepted the position?

"What's the point of dwelling on that? Let me put it this way. Given the same set of facts that were available then, I would still have chosen to do it today. To preserve something out of a business which would have otherwise gone to the wall, has been a real achievement."

A banker who worked closely with Anderson on Ferranti described him as a problem solver, with a fertile mind. "Depending on what side you are on, you could say he was either dogged or stubborn when confronted with a dilemma."

Anderson would agree. "I certainly have the ability to persevere," he says in a soft, southern drawl. "I think I am inherently optimistic, or maybe I'm a little bit mad or naive to do the kind of thing I do. I hope my colleagues would believe I am a good man in a crisis and attack problems in a clear-headed way."

"With Ferranti, it has been all about finding out what unites this company. I found it had a capability of producing advanced systems which could be used not only in defence but in business and the community and that this should be the unifying factor. The problem

was how to accomplish this. We had seven or eight divisions which did not talk to one another, in fact they competed against one another. I said let's kick down the palace walls and work together."

Ferranti's problems stemmed from an elaborate \$1 billion defence contract fraud masterminded by James Guerin, the company's former deputy chairman, who operated the deception through International Signal & Control (ISC), an American company founded by him and bought by Ferranti for £420 million in 1987. In September 1989, the City was shocked by the scale of the fraud, which ripped a £215 million hole in Ferranti's assets and forced a £185 million write-off. The company was forced to sell almost £500 million of assets to repay its banks, led by National Westminster, and initiated several law suits to try and regain the lost cash. After an investigation by the

US Justice Department and the Serious Fraud Office, Guerin was given a 15-year prison sentence in June. He had pleaded guilty to eight counts of fraud and arms smuggling. Ferranti insiders said the company's culture of exaggeration

I'm inherently optimistic, or maybe a little mad or naive, to do the kind of thing I do'

ed secrecy was the main reason why the fraud went undetected for so long. Ferranti had pressed Guerin and ISC for information about several purported defence contracts but was told the information could not be disclosed for security reasons.

Public criticism of Anderson has been negligible and even off the record, colleagues and associates find little to say. One colleague said he was a bit too bureaucratic and too fond of paperwork. One of his bankers said he was very sympathetic, which, while a strength in a situation as sensitive as Ferranti's, meant he was perhaps too forgiving of some senior managers he inherited when he took over from Sir Derek Alton-Jones.

In June, Ferranti reported a pre-tax loss of £39.6 million (£98 million loss) for the year to March 31. Analysts reckon the company might break even in the current



Pruning for healthy growth: Anderson says Ferranti could be back to break-even this year after the company's reorganisation.

year and finally get a chance to use some of its substantial tax losses. Anderson, however, will not relax. "I have reduced an incredible loss at Ferranti to an unsatisfactory loss. A lot of people told me they would not have given 2p for Ferranti's survival, but three years later we have pulled our debt down by well over half a billion pounds and we have a pretty good core business. It was a very painful process."

The workforce has been cut from 23,000 to 4,500, and only about 11,000 of the workforce went with businesses when they were sold. The largest single disposal was the sale of the radar division to GEC for £10 million. "I am focusing on two things," Anderson says, "now that I have dealt with the life-threatening problems. The first is getting more business and the second involves strengthening the

capital structure of the company, which we may do in several ways including more joint ventures. Ferranti has, for example, sold 50 per cent of its sonar division to Thomson-CSF, the French electronics and defence group.

A graduate of Harvard Business School, Anderson has had several "company doctor" jobs, starting in 1966 when he was transferred to Britain from America as managing director of Globe Petroleum Sales, a Scunthorpe-based subsidiary of Tenneco, the oil group. It was only 27 and my boss asked me to go to England to be MD of this little company in trouble. I said I would like the job but I didn't have a passport. I had never been outside America."

"I came here before my family and arrived at a hotel in the West End at about 4 am expecting to get

some sleep. I was too excited, so I packed my bag at about 6 am, hailed a cab and said 'Show me London'."

Anderson was with Tenneco for 20 years in America and Britain, where he was deputy managing director of Albright & Wilson, Tenneco's chemical subsidiary. By the time he left the oil group to become president of Cesene, the American fibres group, he had become vice president in charge of corporate development.

In 1985, before joining Ferranti, he had been coaxed back to Britain to nurse Johnson Matthey, the metals group, back to health.

"When I arrived at Johnson Matthey, they were just announcing a £150 million loss and had debts of about £500 million. Fortunately, Johnson Matthey was literally a little gold mine. It had under-

utilised assets and a sound business. The only part of the company that was in real trouble was the banking subsidiary, which was set up *ad hoc*. One co-director said they thought they'd found a niche in the market but what they had really found was a chasm."

"I bought a bunch of shares in Johnson Matthey and that was a very good investment, accompanied by a lucrative options scheme. At their low, the shares were about 65p and by the time I left they were above £4."

The picture at Ferranti is not as rosy. In keeping with custom, Anderson invested in himself and bought shares in the company when he arrived — about 800,000 — but the shrinking business and general gloom about the company has seen the value of the shares plunge from 40p to 6½p, despite

an improving balance sheet. He also has options on 9,35 million Ferranti shares at an average strike price of 36.8p a share, exercisable early next year. He is, therefore, a long way out of the money and will need to draw on his reserves of optimism to sustain his enthusiasm, despite an annual salary of £464,000.

Anderson was raised on a cattle ranch on the Texas panhandle, the oldest of five children who helped their parents work the land. "My parents were college-educated but the depression changed their lives drastically and it coloured a lot of my childhood. Security became very important and we were careful about money for luxuries. I didn't see the sea until I was ten and I remember that moment very clearly."

He describes the Texas landscape as having "a raw beauty", but says he has no affinity with it. He prefers Cheshire, where he lives with his Czechoslovakian wife Daniella and 13-year-old daughter. When he took control of Ferranti, he moved head office from London to one of company's main sites, at Cheadle, Cheshire.

He is a keen gardener and a lover of opera. An avid sailor, he had a 43 ft yacht custom built in Taiwan and shipped to a mooring in the south of France, where he has an apartment near Cannes. A dapper dresser, Anderson has had the same Savile Row tailor for almost 25 years. He appears at home in his adopted country.

"I have no desire whatsoever to go back and live on the land, (the only house I own in America is in Connecticut). I closed that chapter when I went to the University of Texas to study engineering. Most of my life has been made up of distinct chapters that do not overlap. I never look back. I am not interested in reliving the past."

Anderson has three children from his first marriage when he was fresh from university. That marriage broke down in 1976. He met Daniella, a former refugee who speaks five languages, on a plane flying from London to Los Angeles.

"You could say I won her on the flip of a coin, although she wouldn't appreciate me saying that. The airline had overbooked and there were two of us left at the counter with confirmed first-class seats. Instead of squabbling, we tossed to see who got the first-class seat and who sat in economy. I lost the bet and changed my life."

He says he has led a "relatively uneventful" life. "I have gone on logically from one thing to the next and enjoyed most of it. That will continue *in sh'ahah* [God willing]."

Matthew Bond

Endangered species will unite to stage an economic show-stopper

Sir Alec Guinness has announced that he will not be appearing in the West End again. He is, it seems, fed up with the blank faces of uncomprehending tourists that stare back from the stalls as he gives his emotional all on stage. He plans, instead, to confine future theatrical appearances to what he deems the provinces, where the Queen's English is still understood, if not always spoken.

Quite how this lapse of linguistic tolerance will go down with William Davies, chairman of the British Tourist Authority, is unclear, but badly might be a good guess. Mr Davies this week called on Britain to abandon its monoglot tradition or risk losing increasingly discriminating (not to mention increasingly wealthy) overseas visitors to countries where shouting in laboured syllables is not the instant response to a foreign voice. Britain being Britain, we can be confident that Mr Davies's appeal — in English — will fall, if not on uncomprehending ears, then deaf ones.

But whatever Mr Davies's view, the theatre knight's retreat from the London lime-light should not be dismissed too abruptly. After all, it does set a rather intriguing precedent. In the past few weeks, two of our leading performers have also grown accustomed to their appearances being greeted by blank, uncomprehending faces. Both were at it again this week, with John Major, starring in *Les Liaisons Épouvantes et Dangereuses* at the Westminster Palace, and Norman Lamont in *No Growth Please, We're British* at the Guildhall. Their reception may have inclined more to the incredulous than uncomprehending, but blank it undoubtedly was. Sir Alec has given them their cue, but they may yet require a prompt.

Mr Lamont's production is one of the longest-running farces ever and is packing them in at jobcentres the length and breadth of Britain.



This week came confirmation that the show had broken yet another record, with the CBI reporting that output had fallen for the 11th consecutive quarter and that jobs were still being lost at 25,000 a month. With British Steel announcing it planned to cut production 20 per cent and Ford closing its Dagenham and Southampton factories for a week, the show looks certain to run and run.

That is more than can be said for British Rail trains, again slowed to the pace of well, the British economy, by a surprise fall of autumn leaves. The latest machine brought in by British Rail to give its trains a secure grip clearly does not work. Nor, it appears, does the one employed by the government. But BR's problems do not stop with fallen leaves. A report showed that if BR continued to be deprived of funds with which to buy new rolling stock and other equipment, the rail

manufacturers would run out of work in two years. Mind you, if the economy continues at its current pace, none of us will have anything to do in two years' time.

That is a point that is exercising the minds of more and more of the workforce — both actual and potential — and persuading more and more of them to exercise their bodies in protest. After almost a decade out of fashion, the demo is back in vogue.

This week, the popular press was much taken with the visit to a coalface by the young, female estate agent who befriended a group of miners on their recent protest march through Notting Hill and Kensington. The contrast between redundant miners and smart London estate agent was emphasised by most papers. The similarities, however, were overlooked. But you cannot tell me that in a week

when a four-bedroom, Mayfair house sold at auction for only £287,000 that smart London estate agents do not know a thing or two about recession. Much more of that and the likes of Knight Frank & Rutley and Savills could soon be joining Markham Main and Silverhill in the social history books.

Given the current fad, however, a number of Victorians and Camillas are planning a seven-night dance-in protest at Annabel's nightclub, no doubt to emerge blinking but victorious as the government caves in and allows sibling's property losses to be set against parental income tax.

The new-found enthusiasm for not taking economic adversity lying down is certainly spreading and into some unlikely areas. On Monday, English Heritage, protector of all we hold dear (and much that we don't) announced plans to shed 180 staff and find new owners for 200 of its 360 properties. Less than 48 hours later, the organisation's ancient monument advisory committee denounced the plan in pretty ancient language. Sir David Wilson, the committee's chairman, is urgently seeking a meeting with the commissioners. But will it stop there?

Elsewhere, there are deep-throated roars of disapproval at Windsor safari park, where the calling in of receivers has been followed by most of the staff being made redundant and a far nastier fate possibly awaits many of the animals.

Can it be long before minor

and estate agent, elephant and medieval tithe barn advanced as one to Westminster under the banner of endangered economic species? I can already see the placards — Trumpet if you support the Windsor jumbos. The Abergavenny ring say no more sacrificial lambs; West End agents say sorry daddy.

The protest may play havoc

with the traffic (honestly darling, I was stuck behind a slow moving stone circle) but the message is clear: Mr Major, the workers are revolting.

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STOCK MARKET

Buyers hunt new Hanson target

HANSON was giving the speculators plenty of food for thought as they tried to guess where the cash-rich conglomerate will strike next if it decides to walk away from the Rank Hovis McDougall bid.

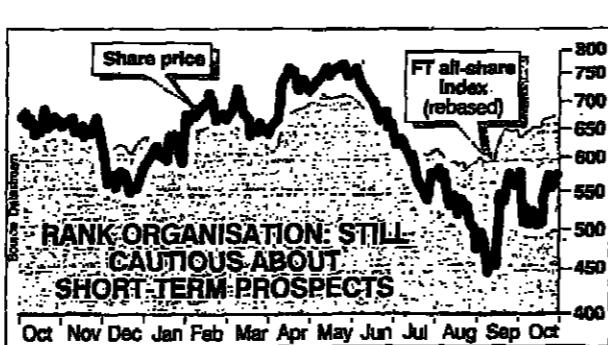
Most brokers are now convinced that Hanson, up 1p at 228p, needs to spend money in this country in order to cut its advanced corporation tax bill. Yesterday the usual bid targets were being wheeled out in the hope that they will prove attractive enough to Hanson, which has never been known to pay over the odds for anything. Top of the speculators' list is Blue

Circle Industries, Britain's biggest cement producer, which was the target of a dawn raid by an unknown predator, reckoned to be Hanson, a few years back. Blue Circle stood out with a 5p rise to 167p, for a two-day gain of 10p.

Also on the list is United Biscuits, up 8p at 340p.

Allied Lyons, 2p cheaper at 626p, and even Lloyds Bank, 12p stronger at 472p.

Meanwhile, Rank Hovis McDougall firmed another 2p to 275p in response to Thursday's £925 million counter bid from Tomkins, unchanged at 212p, which is partially financing the acquisi-



HANSON ORGANISATION STILL CAUTIOUS ABOUT SHORT-TERM PROSPECTS

tion by way of a rights issue. The offer from Tomkins values RHM at around 269p a share cash, some 49p above the terms being offered by Hanson. By the close almost 4

million RHM shares had changed hands.

The rest of the equity market ended the two-week trading account on a steady note, with investors continuing to pin their hopes on another cut in interest rates soon. This was despite a warning from the Chancellor in his Mansion House speech on Thursday that another cut should not be taken for granted.

The FTSE 100 index closed near its best of the day with a rise of 16 at 2,658.3, a rise on the account of 94.4. But after last week's strong gains, business has this week been scrappy. Profit-taking yesterday boosted turnover to 558 million shares.

ICI continued to lose ground on the back of Thursday's sharp drop in third quarter profits, with a fall of 11p to 102.5 as analysts continued to downgrade their pre-tax profit forecasts for the full year.

The big dollar earners again made all the early running, although they closed off their best. Gains were recorded in BAT Industries, 4p to 879p,

Guinness, 9p to 535p, RTZ, 17p to 630p and Reuters, 4p to £1.82.

J.D. Wetherspoon, the pubs group, celebrated its stock market debut, opening at 168p compared with the offer price of 165p. It touched a high for the day of 172p before closing at 167p, a premium of 2p.

First-time dealings in

Dorling Kindersley, the international publishing group, got off to a confident start, opening at 193p compared with the original offer price of 165p. The shares ended the session at 213p, a premium of 48p after being more than six times oversubscribed in the offer for sale.

Elsewhere in the publishing

sector, Reed International

rose 7p to 582p after concluding

details of the proposed

£5.2 billion merger with Elsevier, the Dutch publishing group. Each side will have an equal share of the new Reed Elsevier holding company.

Analysts noted that many

large capital stocks remained

on the defensive as investors

continued to focus on smaller

issues. Even so, the Nasdaq

index suffered from profit-

taking after its nearly week-

73.19 points, or 1.2 per cent,

to close at 6,190.69.

□ Hong Kong — Shares

bounced back after a 100-

point drop in the last two days.

(Reuter)

Tokyo shares weaken 1%

SHARES on the Tokyo Stock Exchange ended lower on futures-linked selling. The Nikkei average fell 170.31 points, or 1.01 per cent, to 16,760.40. About 190 million shares changed hands in lacklustre trading. Investors retreated to the sidelines amid the half-year earnings announcement season.

One broker said: "Investors must be thinking it's too risky to trade until after major political events."

(Reuter)

The rise was largely due to signs that China and Britain were willing to talk about the dispute over the government's proposed democratic reforms. The Hang Seng index jumped 73.19 points, or 1.2 per cent, to close at 6,190.69.

□ Frankfurt — The Dax in-

dex ended 1.32 points lower at

1,492.32, after a low of

1,486.78. (Reuter)

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WEEKEND MONEY

THE TIMES SATURDAY OCTOBER 31 1992

Edited by Lindsay Cook

It will be of little comfort to the 70,000 homeowners who have lost their homes since last December that the Chancellor now seems set to help the housing market. Almost a year after building societies and other mortgage lenders submitted their proposals for a change to the mortgage tax relief scheme to encourage people into the housing market may be included in next month's Autumn Statement.

It may be a year late but it will still be welcomed by all the homeowners who have managed to hold on, even though it is likely that most will not receive any direct benefit.

If a higher tax relief ceiling of £50,000 or £60,000 is given to new borrowers for a limited period it will only be paid to 10 per cent of 15 per cent of the 15 million homeowners in this country who actually move, possibly for five years.

But every other homeowner would gain from the increased number of transactions that would follow and the more optimistic valuations of any properties on the market.

If the Chancellor were to an-

ounce the Miras increase for a limited period of say, at least six months, with no closing date but the intention that it can be ended with one month's notice at any time after May 12 there would be a reason for first time buyers to start looking now rather than wait.

Those who want to move to a larger property and have been eyeing prices, would have an incentive to take a realistic price for their own homes and bargain for the best price they can on the new one, then actually make a move.

Confidence would come back into the market. Valuers who have been cautiously looking at the last three sales in an area to set a price would at least have three willing sales to willing buyers instead of knockdown auction prices of repossessed properties.

It may even take hundreds of thousands of homeowners out of the

shadow of negative equity at a stroke. Many of the people who fear their properties are worth less than their mortgage base the calculation on the valuations of neighbours' properties by nervous valuers.

Interest rate reductions have started to help those who were struggling when standard mortgage rates rose to 15.4 per cent. Properties have never been more affordable in the last 20 years but until there is confidence that prices have stopped falling homeowners will continue to stay put and pay off part of the capital sum they owe to their lenders

rather than reducing their monthly payments at the first opportunity.

If there is a decision to limit the rate of tax relief on Miras to the lower tax band of 20 per cent to pay for the movers, it would be taken on the chin by existing borrowers. They are not greedy, just frightened that the value of their main asset will keep on falling.

Last year the number of house purchases slipped to 1.3 million. This year the figure is likely to be down to 1 million. Two years of falling interest rates and

large discounts for new and first time buyers have not been sufficient to get homeowners out of the bunker and into estate agents.

The Halifax Building Society will begin to calculate its house price index on Monday for this month and everyone will be crossing their fingers that September's cataclysmic 3.1 per cent fall in house prices in one month will mean there was some readjustment upwards in October.

Trying to put the best gloss on it, prices are likely to have fallen by 7.5 per cent over 1992 despite mortgage rates continuing on a downward path to the lowest rate since 1978 with possibly more to come. An incentive to move house next year coupled with a steady decline of house prices and 40 per cent of existing borrowers seeing cuts in their mortgage payments of possibly more than 25 per cent when their annual

review takes place in the new year must help the mood of confidence.

The lenders must also be concerned for savers who have seen their income fall steadily for two years and will not be able to match each base rate cut with a similar fall in mortgage rates or they will have no money to fund the housing market when it picks up.

Those concerned that any false stimulus will lead to runaway prices again should not worry. There are so many properties that are waiting to be sold by lenders, desperate homeowners, beneficiaries of estates and those rented out by job movers until the market picks up, that buyers will still be spoilt for choice and will still be able to negotiate a sensible price or walk away to the next property.

Lenders and homeowners have been patient. The ideas being put forward to the Chancellor with increasing urgency have the virtue of saving public money in the longer term. Without any help buyers could stay on the sidelines waiting until they are sure that prices cannot fall any further.

A year after Maxwell, many pensioners face uncertainty

Watchdog finds schemes are still being plundered

By SARA MCCONNELL

ROBERT Maxwell-style pension abuses are continuing and many employees stand to lose some or all of their benefits through their employer's malpractice, the Occupational Pensions Advisory Service (Opas) said yesterday.

Publishing its annual report, Opas, which advises people on their pension rights, said that it had found "a worrying number of broken pension promises during the year." The finding comes almost exactly a year after Robert Maxwell disappeared from his yacht, and it was discovered more than £400 million of funds belonging to 32,000 pensioners in his companies had disappeared. A year on, much of the money is still missing and nothing concrete has been done to tighten up the rules to stop robbery on such a huge scale.

The number of complaints received by Opas about winding up and merging schemes, and use of pension fund surpluses by companies, had more than tripled, from 4 per cent in 1991 to 14 per cent in 1992. Opas attributed much of this rise to the continuing recession, which has led to insolvencies and the subsequent winding down of pension funds.

The figure includes examples of malpractice in company pension schemes. Don Hall, Opas chief executive, said: "Employers are going into liquidation and cannot meet their pension promises to their employees. There are lots of mini-Maxwells round the country, which although they are not on the same scale as Maxwell, have great importance for the individual."

He said there were schemes with which Opas was involved where employees had received reduced benefits because the employer had not paid over employees' contributions deducted from pay to the trustee or insurer running the scheme or because employers had not paid promised contributions.

Maxwell victims just left waiting

THOUSANDS of Maxwell pensioners are expected to attend a rally in Westminster next Wednesday, the first anniversary of Robert Maxwell's disappearance. They will call on the government to take responsibility for the theft of £458 million of pension money and underwrite future pension provision for 20,000 former employees of Maxwell companies (Sara McConnell writes).

John Mitchell, a national official of the Graphical, Paper and Media Union and one of the organisers of the rally said: "Our objective is to get the government to shoulder the responsibility. It was the leaky sieve of legislation which provided the opportunity for Maxwell to take the money. The government should underwrite the pensions." An earlier rally was attended by 3,000 people and Mr Mitchell said he would be happy to see the same number of people this year.

Only 12,000 pensioners have had their pensions safeguarded by Mirror Group Newspapers.

The remaining 20,000 pensioners of former Maxwell companies are still without any prospect of secure pension provision, out of 32,000 employees involved with Maxwell schemes originally. These



"Don't pressure honest managers, just the rogues": Margaret Grainger, Opas president

In about 10 cases, employees stood to lose all their benefits because firms in trouble used pension fund money to prop up ailing finances. These problems often occur in small firms, where the employer is sole pension fund trustee.

In one case last year, a man contacted Opas because his pension had not been paid nine months after it was due in November 1990 and he could not get any response

since the remaining assets of the fund are unlikely to be adequate even to meeting existing pensions in payment. Recent changes in legislation restrict investment of pension funds in the employer company to 5 per cent of fund assets but transitional arrangements for companies with high levels of self investment mean this may take some time to be reached.

Another employee at a dif-

ferent company had left in October 1989 but then found she could not get a transfer value from the trustee under her employer's insured final salary contracted-out pension scheme. After the trustees had refused to respond to enquiries, Opas discovered that the insurer had paid a cheque for the transfer value to the trustees in February 1990. In January 1992, a cheque for the transfer payment was issued by the employer, not the

from the trustees. Opas found the company had gone into liquidation and the trustees had passed a resolution to wind up the scheme. It transpired most of the fund had been invested in the company and "other associated ventures" at a time when they were already in financial difficulties" and that the investments were virtually worthless. Opas said of the case: "The prospect of the Opas complainant receiving his pension is not good

and while you know equities are fine for long-term rewards, the risks of short-term stockmarket volatility have put off many investors.

THOSE who do not want to take a drop in their standard of living when they retire could have to put up to a fifth of their annual salary into their pension for up to 30 years. These proportions are likely to rise as people live longer, forcing insurance companies to raise the price of annuities bought with pension funds.

Figures from the Central Statistical Office showed Britons are living on average three decades longer than at the turn of the century.

Nigel Bodie, a partner at R Watson, the actuary, said people should aim to make enough contributions to give them two-thirds of their final salary throughout retirement. This is the most someone would get after working for the same company for 40 years and contributing to the company's pension scheme throughout their career. But most employees change jobs several times and thus lose the chance of a maximum pension unless they raise the level of their contributions.

The maximum payout of

Hard work saving for a good life with the silver set

two-thirds final salary assumes some of the remainder will be made up by state pension benefits, including a flat-rate annual state pension for a single person of £2,815 and benefit from the state earnings-related pension scheme.

Married couples over 65 will also benefit from a higher allowance of £2,465. This rises at the age of 75 to £2,505.

Even if retired people do not spend their money on the same things as when they are working, it does not follow that they need less money. They no longer have to pay for work-related costs like travel and working clothes and may well have paid off all or most of their mortgage. But they may face increased health costs, they are at home all the

time so incur larger heating and lighting bills and they may have to buy and run a car to replace a company car.

Mercer Fraser, the actuary, calculated a male aged 50 and retiring at 55, who had paid into one company's final salary scheme since he was 25, then left and joined another company, would have to put 15.3 per cent of his gross annual salary into the scheme each year until retirement to keep up his standard of living.

Under Revenue rules, scheme members are only allowed to put 15 per cent of salary into a company pension to get tax relief so the employer would need to contribute. Even retiring at 65, the same man would need to set aside 8.6 per cent of gross

salary. If the same man with 25 years in a final salary scheme became self-employed or did not have a company scheme and wanted to retire at 55, he would need to put 17.7 per cent of his salary into a personal pension every year from 50 to retirement age. The maximum under Revenue rules is 30 per cent. A personal pension is more expensive because charges are paid by the individual. A woman of 30 who had paid into a final-salary scheme since she was 25, then started to pay into another company's money-purchase scheme, would need to put 16.9 per cent of her gross salary into the scheme to keep up her lifestyle when retiring at 55. Retiring at 60 would cut her contribution to 13 per cent.

These figures assume an investment return of 9 per cent a year on the company money-purchase scheme and 8 per cent on the personal pension. They allow for salary increases of 7 per cent a year and inflation at 5 per cent.

SARA MCCONNELL

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Fall in pound saves trusts invested in US

By LIZ DOLAN

THE recent surge in the value of the dollar has rescued unit trust managers with funds invested in North America. Mike Payne, a senior director at Legal & General, said without the dollar's rise, people who invested in the company's North American Trust in January would be stung on a loss. He says the 16 per cent rise in the value of units was due entirely to currency movements in the past six weeks.

At the beginning of September, when the pound was at \$2, the value of units in the fund was 2 per cent lower than in January when the pound was worth \$1.87. Since the ERM withdrawal on September 16, the pound has collapsed to \$1.56, and is still falling. Since the beginning of the year, the Dow Jones average of 30 US blue chips has risen by 2 per cent. Over the same period, the dollar has improved 19 per cent against sterling. Therefore, without the pound's collapse, L & G's

fund managers would have had some explaining to do.

Figures for the three American trusts managed by M & G tell a similar tale. Since January, the offer price of units in the American and General Trust has grown by 19.8 per cent to \$62.7p. For the American Recovery Fund, it has improved by 16.1 per cent to \$35.1p and, for the American Smaller Companies Trust, by 15.4 per cent to \$9.6p. All but one are therefore showing a

loss over the ten months at level dollar rates, even before the growth in average equity values is taken into account.

Fund managers at Barclays are bullish about US equities. David Chapman, product manager at Barclays Union, said: "We think we really are now seeing the bottom of the US recession. Our view is that the markets have already reacted via the society. Birmingham Midshires' borrowers have three new loans to choose from. One is fixed at 7.25 per cent (APR 9.3 per cent) for two years, another is capped at 7.99 per cent (APR 9.5 per cent), also for two years, and a third is fixed at 8.45 per cent (9.4 per cent) for five years. Arrangement fees are £195, £225 and £295.

A new mortgage from Lloyds Bank is pegged at 7.99 per cent (APR 9.6 per cent) until the end of 1994. The loan must be linked to a Black Horse endowment or pension policy, "at least in part", and the commitment fee is £250. Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society is now giving a discount on smaller, against larger loans. Loans of up to £50,000, and up to 60 per cent of the property's value, now qualify for a 2 per cent discount - to 7.05 per cent at current rates - for the first 12 months. There is also a 1 per cent discount for 12 months on any size of loan up to 80 per cent. Newcastle Building Society is cutting its variable rate by 1.5 percentage points to 9.25 per cent (APR 10.1 per cent) on November 30.

L&G Pep guarantees safety

By LINDSAY COOK
MONEY EDITOR

A PERSONAL equity plan investing in a risky unit trust is launched on Monday with a guarantee that whatever happens to the companies it buys shares in, the investors cannot lose money over five years.

The Guaranteed Pep from Legal & General invests in the company's UK Recovery Trust, which chooses companies that are regarded as undervalued and therefore in a good position to benefit from a recovery. Many of them are smaller companies and as such are more volatile than blue chip stocks. The fund is managed by Lesley Hooper, who has been a member of the L&G UK equity team for eight years.

While the group is cutting the initial charge on its other five funds to 3 per cent, the guaranteed plan will have a front end charge of 5.5 per

cent. The difference will be used to buy an L & G insurance policy that will guarantee no loss of investment over five years. There will be no need to disinvest to qualify for the money. The group will scan the Peps at the fifth anniversary of the investment and if any are showing a loss a

cheque will be despatched to them. It will then be up to them whether they withdraw the rest of the investment or wait for an upturn.

Fidelity Investments is also looking towards safer investments with the launch of a range of stabiliser funds covering the UK, European, American and Japanese stockmarkets.

The four funds are authorised futures and options unit trusts and will use these derivatives to hedge against downward movements in the markets. This method has not been available to small investors before.

The funds, which are launched on Monday, have a minimum investment of £1,000, and the initial charge is 5.25 per cent with an annual one of 1.5 per cent. Those investing before November 23 will get a 1 per cent bonus.

Hooper: fund manager

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Fixed-rate fans rue rushing in at 11%

HOMEBUYERS who rushed to get loans with rates fixed at 10, or even 11, per cent during last month's 15 per cent rate panic, will be upset to learn many lenders are now offering fixed-rate loans below 8 per cent (Liz Dolan writes).

The Woolwich has a two-year fixed-rate loan at 7.45 per cent (APR 9.4 per cent), which must be either endowment or pension-linked. It says this represents a saving of £15.52 a month in current variable rate terms of £50,000 loan. It has cut the rate on its 10-year fixed-rate mortgage from 9.99 per cent to 9.25 per cent. Application fee for the two-year plan is £255 and for the ten-year one, £290.

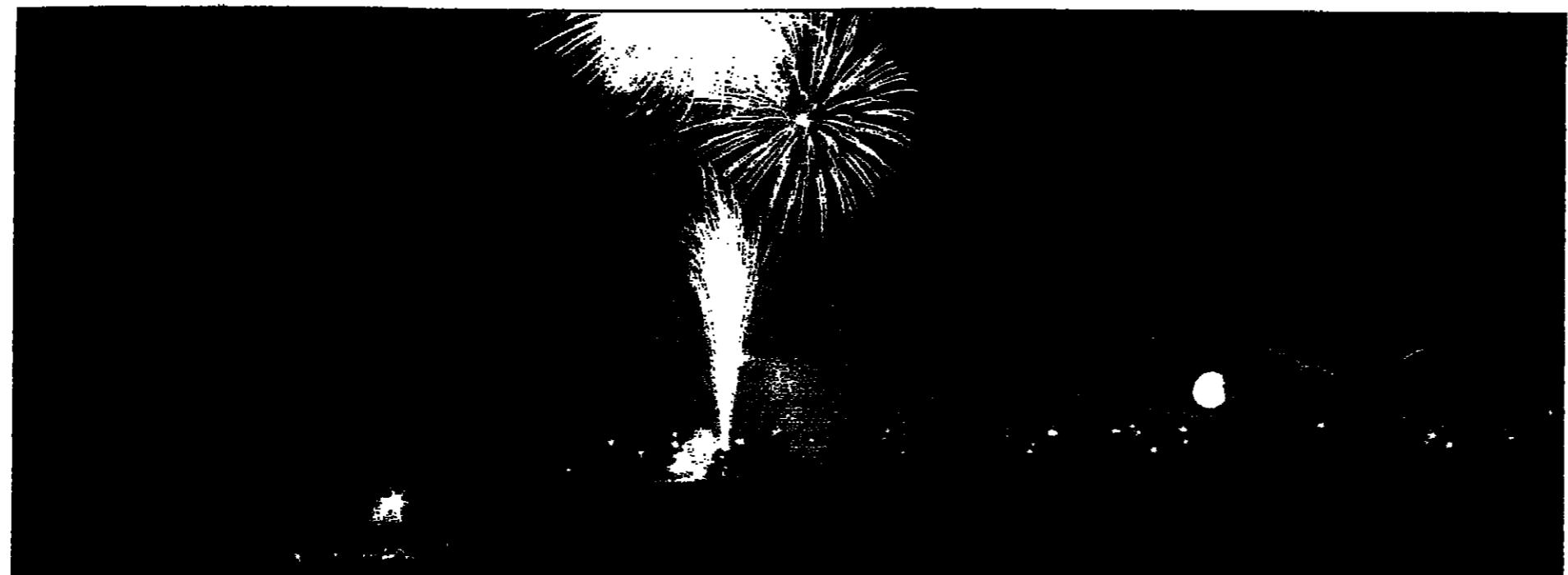
The Strand & Swindon Building Society is marketing interest-only and repayment mortgages with rates fixed at 7.5 per cent (APR 9.4 per cent) for two years. The application fee is £150 and buildings insurance must be arranged via the society. Birmingham Midshires' borrowers have three new loans to choose from. One is fixed at 7.25 per cent (APR 9.3 per cent) for two years, another is capped at 7.99 per cent (APR 9.5 per cent), also for two years, and a third is fixed at 8.45 per cent (9.4 per cent) for five years. Arrangement fees are £195, £225 and £295.

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Policies to play safe, rather than sorry

Despite stringent safety precautions at big displays, many children are still injured by fireworks every year, writes **Liz Dolan**

LAST year, 723 people were injured by fireworks in the month leading up to Guy Fawkes night. Most of them - 460 - were children. The numbers are declining as safety standards improve, last year's figure was 11 per cent lower than 1990, but that is no consolation to either the victims or their parents.

Accidents with fireworks are

normally avoidable, but it is impossible to protect children from all forms of injury. The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents says there were more than three million accidents involving children up to 19 years of age last year.

A few insurance companies offer personal accident policies specially designed for children. Some only pay out for

permanent disability or death. These are comparatively rare events and premiums to cover them are very low. In the past few years, there has been a move towards more comprehensive policies that take in non-permanent injuries requiring hospitalisation.

Personal Assurance, based in Milton Keynes, has seen an enormous upsurge in demand for children's personal accident cover in recent months. Christopher Johnson, managing director, says the most likely reason is the increased desire for security during a recession. "At times like this, our policies always sell very

well." His company sees an increase in claims around Bonfire Night every year and "I see no reason why this year should be any different."

Personal Assurance markets two plans for children. Childsafe, which has been on the market since 1986, pays lump sums for disabilities, plus benefit for accidents that require in-patient attention in hospital. Firework accidents are much more likely to require hospital treatment than does not result in lost limbs," he says. Childsafe has never had to pay lump sum benefits to any of its 1,000 policyholders, but has settled many plenty of hospital claims.

Children's Hospital Plan, launched two years ago, has proved more popular as it covers illness as well as accidents. It has sold 17,000 policies over the past two years, and is now signing up 1,000 customers a month. Both plans cost £40 a year for all family members between

three months and 16 years. Norwich Union has just cut a child's minimum age to qualify for its "Teddy Bear" contract from three years to one.

The maximum age is still 17 and premiums are the same as last year's. The policy provides lump sums for death and per-

manent, such as Prince William's golfing injury, encourages extra business.

Brown Shipley, the insurance broker, has just launched its first non-school-based accident policy. The Family Personal Accident Scheme, underwritten by Holmwoods, the specialist schools insurer, pays £30 a day when the child is in hospital, and also for each day recovering at home after hospitalisation. For an extra £5 a month, cover for legal expenses incurred in pursuing a claim for personal injury can be added on. The broker also offers a schools-based policy with much lower premiums because of the spread of risk.

Firstcover marketed by Cigna Insurance, costs £4.50 a month for a single child, or £7 for more than one. This buys £20,000 of cover, including £50 a day for in-patient treatment for accidental injury, plus home care costs following a period of at least seven days in hospital.

'His company experiences an increase in claims around Bonfire Night every year'

manent injury anywhere in the world. An annual £25 premium buys benefits from £100,000 for severe disability to £1,000 for the loss of movement in a little toe. About 5,500 people are covered by the policy. A spokeswoman said a well-publicised acci-

Pibs scare rocks trust launch

BY LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

RUMOURS that the Bristol & West Building Society was set to pass an interest payment on its permanent interest bearing shares (Pibs) almost stalled the launch of a unit trust investing in them.

The rumour was quickly denied but the price of its Pibs in the secondary market

fell 7 per cent in one day this week before recovering. After all, any society that did not pay interest on its Pibs would face a run on its investment accounts and would fail. A big society rescuing one that had not paid its Pibs interest would have to continue paying the interest or pay face

value of the shares. The idea that a society might not pay showed lack of understanding about a relatively new investment product. Even the Securities and Investments Board took time in allowing a fund to be launched to invest in these shares.

The unit trust, from Exeter Fund Managers, should allow smaller investors to take advantage of higher returns from the shares. The Exeter Balanced Fund will invest two thirds in Pibs and one third in zero preference shares of split level investment trusts to give some capital growth.

Pibs have the security of being issued by big building societies but should a society fail, holders of the shares would be repaid last on winding up. And the society can waive payment of the interest or cut it where payment would cause the society to have insufficient capital under the capital adequacy rules.

Because of the economy of scale of this method of raising money, the enduring nature of the stock and the possibility of interest not being paid, the return is far higher than for ordinary society accounts. Several of the 12 Pibs from 11 top 25 societies limit minimum investment to £50,000. They are therefore out of reach of small investors.

Last week, Cheltenham & Gloucester raised £100 million issuing shares with a coupon of 11.75 per cent. Minimum investment was £50,000 and they soon sold above par. The society currently pays 5.25 per cent gross on £1,000 in its Cheltenham Gold account. The new fund will be able to pool investments to allow small investors to buy into new issues of Pibs or to buy shares in the secondary market when available.

Those Pibs bought at the time of issue from the Leeds, the first into the market in June last year, would now be able to sell each £100 of shares for £117, but they pay 13.63 per cent gross forever.

The Exeter fund is launched on Wednesday with a minimum investment of £750. It has an initial charge of 5.25 per cent and an annual one of 1 per cent a year. It has an estimated gross yield of 6.5 per cent. Johnson Fry has launched a Pibs portfolio requiring a minimum investment of £20,000.

Home win: Bradford & Bingley Building Society has named *The Times* Personal Finance National Newspaper of the Year. The premier award was presented by Baroness Denison of Wakefield to Lindsay Cook, editor of Weekend Money. Pictured (left to right) are Sara McConnell, Lindsay Cook and Karen Buckley.

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Abbey Fund R7	88 145 217 271	102.30	2.26 1.13	MANAGERS LTD	15 195 236 240	104.40	1.00 0.48	Stevens Cos	221 72 221 74	102.50	0.50	PROLIFIC UNIT TRUST MANAGERS	96 74 97 74	104.30	1.40
Masterfund	95.72	74.20	2.55 1.12	MANAGERS LTD	15 195 236 240	104.40	1.00 0.48	General	401 00 402 00	102.50	0.50	PROLIFIC UNIT TRUST MANAGERS	96 74 97 74	104.30	1.40
International	102.09	74.20	2.55 1.12	MANAGERS LTD	15 195 236 240	104.40	1.00 0.48	Global	123 70 123 70	102.50	0.50	PROLIFIC UNIT TRUST MANAGERS	96 74 97 74	104.30	1.40
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Enrich Growth	53.16	50.37	0.50 0.32	MANAGERS LTD	15 195 236 240	104.40	1.00 0.48	Japan	98.00 100.00	102.50	0.50	PROLIFIC UNIT TRUST MANAGERS	96 74 97 74	104.30	1.40
Worldwide Fund	35.70	30.00	1.00 0.50	MANAGERS LTD	15 195 236 240	104.40	1.00 0.48	Global Fund	214 00 215.00	102.50	0.50	PROLIFIC UNIT TRUST MANAGERS	96 74 97 74	104.30	1.40
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After Tax Gf	70.31	71.20	1.20 0.50	MANAGERS LTD	15 195 236 240	104.40	1.00 0.48	Global Fund	214 00 215.00	102.50	0.50	PROLIFIC UNIT TRUST MANAGERS	96 74 97 74	104.30	1.40
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Carson to collect on smart Jdaayel

WILLIE Carson can benefit from the absence of Michael Roberts, who is riding in the United States, by capturing the Ladbrooke Autumn Handicap at Newmarket today on Jdaayel.

When the entries for today's most valuable race closed at the end of September this Alec Stewart-trained filly had earned a rating of 88, having won successive races at Epsom, Sandown and Ascot. Since then she has returned to Ascot and put up her best performance so far by running Well Beyond to a head in the listed October Stakes.

On that occasion filies of the colt of Culture Vulture, Midnight Sun and Nashville Blues were directly behind Jdaayel in third, fourth and fifth places respectively.

As a result, Jdaayel now has a rating of 96.

Since she is still able to compete from off an 8lb lower mark now, she must have an outstanding chance. She is my nap.

Top weight will be carried

MICHAEL PHILLIPS

by the impressive Cambridge-shire winner, Rambo's Hall. He has 7lb more on his plate this time. In theory, that should see him to Montepier Boy and Double Entendre, who finished second and third behind him in the first leg of the autumn double. They meet now on the same terms. When today's weights were compiled the handicapper was also able to take Millson's great improvement into consideration and I expect Jdaayel to take care of him at a difference of 9lb.

Lap Of Luxury, who has been seen as a model of consistency of late, is nominated for a place on ground that she will relish more than Rambo's Hall.

Carson can go on to land a double by winning the Borough Green Handicap on John Sutcliffe's Saafend,

who beat Lap Of Luxury last time out.

While a victory for Well Beyond earlier in the Ben Marshall Stakes would draw further attention to Jdaayel's great chance I still feel that she is well able to play second fiddle to Inner City.

The Luca Cumani-trained colt was an impressive winner of a similar race, the Main Reef Stakes, over today's

course and distance four weeks ago.

On that occasion he easily beat Well Beyond's stable companion Spruce.

The fine form shown this summer by Henry Codd's two-year-olds can be sustained by Elkhart landing the Sporting Life Stakes.

Since mopping up minor

events at Ripon and Wolverhampton Elkhart has been

going consistently well with a better class of horse in his workouts on the Heath.

Over the jumps at Wetherby, the highlight is obviously the seasonal debut of this year's Cheltenham Gold Cup winner, Cool Ground, in the Teletel Bitter Charlie Hall Chase.

The same race also marks the reappearance, after an even longer absence, of the Irish-trained Caherbawlow, who lost the Whitbread Gold Cup at Sandown two seasons ago in controversial circumstances.

Now both could well be hard pressed to cope with Tipper Tim, who will be as fit as a fiddle following two races already this season.

At Sandown, the 1991 Grand National winner, Seagram, begins another season by lining up for the Witcher Broomstick Handicap Chase, along with Brown Windsor, who finished fourth in the Aintree spectacular the year before. However, they are unlikely to beat Far Senior.

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Saturday portrait: Lennox Lewis, by Srikumar Sen, Boxing Correspondent

ILLUSTRATION: STEVE MARTIN

Britain's unlikely heavyweight takes shot at acceptance

Lennox Lewis is the best heavyweight boxer Britain has had: a genuine contender who could even lift the world title. Yet he has not won the acclaim of his own people and it is not for want of trying. Perhaps this will change if he beats Donovan "Razor" Ruddock in the final world title eliminator at Earls Court tonight.

If he does, he will be considered the best boxer in the world, since most experts believe Lewis or Ruddock would be more than a match for Evander Holyfield, the world champion. If he loses, his struggle to share some of the affections lavished on Frank Bruno will become harder.

Lewis's friends are struck by the difference in attitude of the British public towards them and Bob Fitzsimmons, who in 1897 became the only Englishman to win the world heavyweight title. Fitzsimmons went to New Zealand as a boy in 1873 and never came back but he retained his place in British hearts.

Lewis, too, was born an Englishman, at Forest Gate, went with his mother at the age of 12 to another Commonwealth country, Canada, and came home as a young man with an Olympic gold medal. But most boxing experts see him as a Canadian product using Britain as a convenient operating base. As Harry Mullan, editor of *Boxing News*, asked this week was Lewis's decision to return founded on pragmatism or patriotism?

Lewis did not deliberately target Britain gain an easy passage to the top ten by way of the European title. That was the plan of the Levitt Group, the finance company that brought him back in 1989. Lewis had intended to stay in Canada after winning the gold medal in Seoul in 1988. A Canadian business group associated with his Romanian trainer, Arian Deodorescu, was interested in backing him. When that fell through, the Americans clamoured for his services, including Lou and Dan Duvia, the managers of Holyfield.

Josephine Abercrombie's Household Boxing Association was also interested, as were the Sugar Ray Leonard Group, Bob Arum, Emanuel Steward and, in Britain, Mickey Duff.

Surprisingly, the Levitt Group ap-

pealed to the punch, as it were. Ambrose Mandy, then Nigel Benn's adviser, found out Lewis was available and involved the Levitt company, which at the time was looking for a heavyweight with a British connection. It gave Lewis a three-year contract with an option for two more years, a house in Crayford, a salary of £500-a-week, a Mercedes car, free trips to Canada and back for his mother, Violet, and a programme of bouts to help him learn the trade.

Lewis decided to win as many titles as possible to establish his credentials and he disposed of his opponents with the minimum of fuss. He stopped Jean Chantel of France, the European champion, in six rounds; Gary Mason, the British champion, in seven; Glenn

pointed two Americans, Pepe Correa, as his trainer, and Ollie Dunlap, his camp co-ordinator, both from the Sugar Ray Leonard Group. He took charge of his own company's affairs and sidelined Roger Levitt, who was now facing criminal charges and personal claims of around £50 million.

Apart from the fact that Lewis is not tied to one of the fashionable British managers who know how to use the media, the trouble is that he does not fit into the stereotype of a boxing contender.

He does not have a hole in his head or a bullet in his knee. He was not a mugger nor has he done time. He has not been trying to get out of the ghetto. He is not the "I don't want to knock him out, I want to maim him" type. He is not a one-punch artist. He is not boastful and talks with a soft Canadian accent. He is articulate but does not produce clever one-liners. He does not dress loudly. He does not have a rottweiler as a pet but a white poodle. He even lives with his mother.

He has a house in Beckenham but appears to feel more at home in Canada. After the Levitt company closed down and a Greek millionaire stepped in with ready cash, Lewis remained loyal to Roger Levitt and kept him as his promotion manager for two years.

As Jimmy Durante might have said: "What kind of guy is this?"

Recognition has been slow in coming. Perhaps this is the fault of Lewis, who does not see himself so much as a professional money-maker as a competitor. That has meant taking the opposition as it comes — no ducking and diving — which is why he had decided to meet Ruddock, who has been considered too dangerous by Holyfield. Boxing, like a game of chess, is about competing, not fighting. "It isn't a fight against Ruddock," Lewis says. "I am competing against him."

Ruddock, like most punchers, sees his business somewhat differently. His camp co-ordinator, Howie Albert, jokes: "My guy doesn't want to knock you out, he wants to kill you."

His meaning was made clear as Ruddock prepared for the bout in a St Pancras gym this week, especially when he threw his favourite punch, the left hook-cum-uppercut which had Mike

McCrory, the challenger for both titles, in two. He knocked out Mike Weaver, a former world champion, in six, and avenged an Olympic defeat by Tyrell Biggs in three rounds. Derek Williams, the Commonwealth champion, also went in three but Lewis made hard work of Levi Billups. When he stopped Mike Dixon in four rounds on August 11, his record was 21 wins in 21 bouts.

He had won everything but acceptance in Britain. He had parted company with his trainer, John Davenport, who had done a good job refurbishing the gym at the Henry Cooper public house in the Old Kent Road and taken Lewis from an amateur to a successful professional. Lewis ap-

pealed to the heavy bag and two American sparring partners felt the weight of the smash as Ruddock, a tennis enthusiast, calls it. Ruddock looked more fearsome than Tyson. I feel afraid for Lewis.

I remembered last April, when returning from Bristol where Lewis had been training to meet Derek Williams. Violet Lewis saying to Lewis: "Don't let my son get hurt in any hard fight." Violet understood pain. She had gone to Gary Mason's dressing-room at Wembley after Lewis had closed Mason's eyes in a title bout, to see if he was all right. Now her son is facing

Tyson reeling. The heavy bag and two American sparring partners felt the weight of the smash as Ruddock, a tennis enthusiast, calls it. Ruddock looked more fearsome than Tyson. I feel afraid for Lewis.

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the most feared man in boxing. It is a bout Lewis need not have taken, and would have been well advised to avoid. As Duff, Britain's leading matchmaker, would have said: "Lewis needs this fight like a moose needs a hat rack."

Ruddock, then No. 2 to Ruddock, certainly did a disappearing act when approached by the World Boxing Council. Lewis moved up from No. 3 to No. 2, could have laughed off the WBC order. What is the point of an eliminator between a No. 1 and No. 2, Lewis could have argued. But Lewis's team is confident. "We

are going to take Ruddock to school," Correa said. Dunlap added: "Bet the ranch Lewis has got everything: Holmes' jab, Ali's right hand, Leonard's footwork, speed, the whole nine yards."

Even though one must question Correa's and Dunlap's confidence, for they were not too clever with Shawn O'Sullivan, Dan Sherry and Andrew Maynard, one has to give Lewis a boxer's chance.

Lewis's aim will be to frustrate Ruddock with the jab (as Greg Page did so successfully until he got caught in the eighth) so that he forgets Floyd Patterson's coaching

and starts relying on the big left hook. Ruddock has to set himself to deliver that punch, which should give Lewis plenty of time to think about his next move. If Lewis gets caught with one of Ruddock's big punches he will be knocked out, but if he can survive the first four or five rounds and get his boxing going, he should win.

Either way, Lewis should do Britain proud. Lewis is too sensible to dwell on how people see him. He has made his allegiance plain and he can do no more, except, perhaps, keep on winning.



YACHTING: FIRST LEG OF BRITISH STEEL CHALLENGE DRAWING TO CLOSE

Sutherland closes in on finish

FROM BARRY PICKTHALL
IN RIO DE JANEIRO

COMMERCIAL Union, the last of the British Steel Challenge yachts, closed to within a day of her last night. Bowing along at nine knots, and having covered 200 miles during the past 24 hours, Will Sutherland and his crew hope to complete the first stage of this race around the world early tomorrow.

By then, 36 days will have elapsed since the spectacular start from the Solent and questions will undoubtedly be asked why this yacht, which is identical to the other nine within the fleet and carries a crew of equal competence, could have fallen seven days behind the leaders.

Meanwhile, the crews already in Rio are still coming to terms with the robbing and muggings that have become a way of life in Brazil. The latest victim was a crewman who had all his money, credit cards and every stitch of clothing taken from his hotel room while he slept.

He was found the following morning naked in the lift suffering from shock. Other crew within the race immediately rallied round to provide sympathy and loan him fresh clothing.

He is the fourth person within a week to fall prey to the criminal elements that seem to roam freely along the Copacabana beach district at night, leaving many to wonder how many more British Steel Challenge crew members will be robbed before this race restarts on November 15.

RESULT: First leg Southampton to Rio de Janeiro: 1. British Steel II (R Tudor), 29 days 2hr 38min, 2. Interplay (J Yates), 29 days 2hr 40min, 3. Royal Yacht Squadron, 31 days 1hr 54min, 4. Pride of Teesside (R McMillan), 31 days 0hr, 5. Group 4 Securities (M Golding), 31 days 0hr 2min, 6. National (R Laver), 31 days 1hr 10min, 7. Gullane (J D'Arcy), 31 days 1hr 21min, 8. Phoenix (J D'Arcy), 31 days 22min, 9. Coopers (G Gossard), 31 days 22min, 10. Commerical Union (W Sutherland), 31 days 2hr 10min.

Proposed Games changes sail against the wind of reason

Rodney Pattison, Britain's most successful Olympic yachtsman, puts the case of sporting significance against pure entertainment

sports. In Barcelona, there was one team official, umpire, judge or scrutineer for every two competitors.

Yachting has come a long way since 1948. Classes have developed and changed radically since that Olympic regatta in Torquay. Catamarans were almost unheard of and the windsurfer had yet to be invented. Yet both are now key elements of a maturing Olympic scene.

The wholesale changes being discussed by delegates attending the International Yacht Racing Union's (IYRU) annual conference, which starts in London today, suggest that lessons learnt when the Star class keelboat was replaced have been forgotten. That resulted in a design competition and the forced

introduction of the Tempest, and it took two Olympic Games before its unpopularity was finally recognised and the ancient, but testing, Star brought back.

Racing courses, too, have evolved through experience, and the present Olympic triangle and upwind-downwind elements provide competitors with the most satisfaction and excitement. To change to figure-of-eight courses will ruin the enjoyment and lessen the skill required to win medals.

The Flying Dutchman class, in which I have competed since 1963, is one of the most exciting and demanding boats within the Olympics. A two-man trapeze dinghy with restricted rules, it has developed enormously since its introduction in 1960.

Now the dictat from people, ignorant of the sport and of why we enjoy it, to change to cheap, popular beach boats has threatened the Flying Dutchman class with radical change, or withdrawal of its Olympic status.

"I have got to be confident with the way I have started the season," Pattison said. "Even when I've lost, it is only because my opponents have played well."

These changes will kill off Olympic yachting as we know it. The skillful use of currents, windsurfs and tactical positioning will be replaced by short drag racing off the beach.

This must never happen. We must have the strength and sense to say no, starting in London this coming week. It is far better to risk the loss of Olympic status than ruin the sport as we know it.

□ Rodney Pattison won Olympic gold medals in 1972 and 1976 and a silver medal in 1972.



SNOOKER

Parrott is enjoying his travels

FROM PHIL YATES
IN ANTWERP

IF THE contingent of British-trained thoroughbreds assembled in Florida for the Breda Cup today travel as well as John Parrott, the American hosts will find it difficult to prevent a flood of dollars returning across the Atlantic.

Parrott, an Englishman who has won eight of his ten titles overseas, reached the semi-finals of the Humo Belgian Masters with a controlled 5-2 victory over Neal Foulds, the world No. 5, at the Matchroom Schijndel here yesterday.

Showing the confidence gained from tournament wins in China and at the Dubai Duty Free Classic earlier in the month, Parrott established a 3-1 lead with breaks of 44, 101 and in the fourth frame, a 44 clearance to pink after Foulds had led 46-13.

Parrott, the event's inaugural champion, in 1990, added a 48 break in the fifth frame and eventually secured a semi-final against Stephen Hendry, the top seed, or Gary Wilson, by taking a low scoring seventh frame.

"I have got to be confident with the way I have started the season," Parrott said. "Even when I've lost, it is only because my opponents have played well."

"In a way, I'm very lucky because I had my eye stolen from Heathrow airport in June and its replacement was turned out to be a nice piece of wood."

Parrott, 27, now free from many of the extra-curricular demands that limited his practice during the 12 months from May 1991, when he was world champion, claims he is more committed than ever.

"I am relishing every match because I am so well prepared," the Liverpudlian said.

CRICKET

Bacher warns of veto over Rice selection

FROM RICHARD STREETON IN JOHANNESBURG

CLIVE Rice's dispute with South African officials took a new turn yesterday. Alf Bacher, the United Cricket Board of South Africa's managing director, confirmed that its executive would review Rice's inclusion if the selectors picked him to play in the representative matches against India.

Bacher denied that any directive on Rice had been given to Peter Pollock, the selectors' chairman. There has been speculation that if Rice wanted to represent his country again he would have to apologise to the board for his comments from the South African World Cup party.

Rice escaped severe disciplinary action because the South African board's code of conduct did not cover off-the-field remarks, though revised regulations now do so. Rice went to the World Cup for

Channel 9 Television. This infringed the terms of his playing contract with Transvaal, who did not offer him a renewal this season.

Rice moved to Natal where he has performed with consistent all-round success. He can no longer sustain long spells with the ball and this makes it unlikely that he would be chosen for Test matches. He could, well, though, be a candidate for one-day internationals. Rice is reported to be seeking legal advice.

India have chosen their opening first-class game today, a four-day match against a Combined Bowl XI at Springs, 40 miles east of Johannesburg. Only Shastri of the main batsmen is left out. Kapil Dev, Sharma and Bapuji will share the new ball and both spinners, Ravi and Kumble, are included.

The Bowl competition is contested by the weaker provinces and the Indians are unlikely to be extended. Michael Cram, formerly with Glamorgan West, is captain of Combined XI, who also include Peter de Vaal, 47, a left-arm spinner.

CYCLING

Cammish awaits record

IAN Cammish knows all about frustration: it goes hand-in-hand with road record attempts and this year, although able to claim 46 time trial victories, he has failed to bag one national record (Peter Bryan writes).

Cammish, who holds the straight-out 25, 50 and 100 mile records, has spent a lot of this time waiting for forecast strong winds that either never came or were, instead, blowing from the wrong direction.

RAC rally attracts big field

THE extra incentive of a £100,000 prize for a British driver to win the RAC rally has attracted the biggest entry of any round of this year's world rally championships. A total of 160 crews, including 16 of the leading "A-seeded" drivers, will leave Chester at the start of the five-day rally from November 22 to 26.

Andrea Aghani, of Italy, the winner of the recent San Remo rally, and Carlos Menem, son of the president of Argentina, are late entries for the event, which is headed by the 1991 champion and defending world title-holder, Juha Kankkunen, of Finland.

Wood qualifies

Golf: David Wood, of Wales, became the final qualifier for next month's PGA Tour School to be staged over the Massane and La Grande Motte courses in Montpellier, when he secured the final place at El Saler yesterday after a three-way play-off.

Drugs tests

Tennis: All 84 players at the Stockholm Open will have been dope-tested by the end of the tournament tomorrow. It will be the first time that all players at one tournament have been tested.

Barrett chance

Boxing: Pat Barrett, of Britain, will challenge for the European super-welterweight title in Luxembourg on December 2, provided the champion, Valery Kayumba, wins his voluntary defence against another Brit

Leeds United tie given top priority

Increase in injuries provides test of Rangers' resources

By RODDY FORSYTH

MIDWAY through their most testing fortnight for several years, the strain is telling on Rangers' resources, extensive as they are. They have beaten Leeds United and Aberdeen in their previous two games to achieve a first-leg lead in the European Cup and a victory in the Skol Cup respectively, but, in the next seven days, they must face Motherwell and Celtic in the premier division and Leeds at Elland Road.

The Ibrox treatment room has been in perpetual demand this week with players queuing for attention, among them Gough, Hateley, Huistra, McCaist and Steven, and there is a possibility that only McCaist will be fit to take part in this afternoon's home meeting with Motherwell, although the forward is still feeling the effects of a calf knock first sustained while he was playing for Scotland against Portugal two weeks ago.

The Rangers manager, Walter Smith, has to grade the importance of the demands being made of his players and, inevitably, the European Cup tie takes priority. Smith made no attempt yesterday to pretend that Rangers are subscribing to the one-game-at-a-time philosophy when he said: "I think it is only natural that, with all the exertions of the meetings with Leeds, that the players can't get it out of their minds."

"We had to play Hibernian for the European Cup first leg and we have to play Motherwell before we go to Elland Road and it is not being disrespectful to either of those teams to say that some of our attention is elsewhere, because they would be the same if they were in our position."

It seems reasonable to believe that, of the casualties, Steven will be unavailable for the Leeds return because of hamstring trouble, but Gough, Hateley and Huistra will probably be cleared to play then, if not necessarily this afternoon. Mikhailchenko and Kurnetsov, who were on international duty for the Ukraine in midweek, returned yesterday and are included in the squad.

Motherwell also have several injury problems, the most bizarre of which sees Arnot doubtful because of a reaction to an insect bite sustained during training. For those interested in relative form, Rangers last lost at home on March 21 when they were beaten 2-0 by Celtic, while on that date Motherwell last won away with a 2-1 victory over St Mirren at Love Street.

Celtic are at Macdiarmid Park today where Creanay, who was rested last Saturday against Airdrieonians, will return against St Johnstone. Like Rangers, Celtic will have one eye on Europe because they will attempt to overturn a 1-0 deficit against Portugal next week.

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By RODDY FORSYTH

Chelsea v Sheffield United
Wimbledon have scored eight times in their last seven games, after a £200,000 move from Luton. Robert Fleck has provided Chelsea with just two goals after his £2.2 million arrival from Fleetwood. The 21-year-old has not been given a chance to play in the Premier League and who knows, he may not even make the team in his first game against Chelsea, beaten only once in their last eight cuttings, still for a fifth successive victory, against a Sheffield United side who have not won the Premier League and who have averaged no more than a goal a game since August. Robert held the side which drew 0-0 with Liverpool in midweek, but must watch out for Wies' crosses from the Chelsea wing.

Everton v Man City
Howard Kendall, the Everton manager, was in charge of City last night and the result was a 1-0 win for the visitors. Kendall's side have now won three of their last six games and are finding wins in short supply. Kendall is equally disturbed by Everton's failure to score more than six goals at Goodison Park and seems to be of the opinion that Rothiemore in the Coca-Cola Cup — not to mention a run of five defeats in the last six league games. Beardmore, Kendall's side bright spark, has now scored four goals in four appearances and, despite now having a tender groin, so Saker continues to find the breach.

Norwich v Mid'brugh
Although in second place Norwich, who need to bounce back after defeats away to Liverpool and Blackburn, have scored 24 goals this season. Only two have been conceded at Carrow Road. Lennie Lawrence, the Middlesbrough manager, believes that held Wigan's Falzon back until his last test. His team, who have won the second division title, now Lawrence feels the midfield player can have a positive impact on their Premier League form and is delighted to welcome Falzon back to the team. The 21-year-old, still with a cell strain, Hendrie will be fit again and back in contention as a role on the wing.

Nottingham Forest v Ipswich
Bottom-placed Forest should be able to outplay Ipswich at their own passing game to provide Brian Clough with a win. The 21-year-old Ipswich is again troubled by the knee injury which has blighted a promising club and international career, as Ipswich deputises at right back. Ipswich no longer have Falzon, who has been ruled out for six weeks. Bamford, 18, and a Liverpool supporter who was turned down after a trial at Anfield, deputises for the injured Bamford in the Tottenham attack. Wigan's Falzon, who has been ruled out for six weeks, continues in goal. Liverpool, third-bottom, replace Grobbelaar, who pulled a hamstring against Sheffield United in midweek, with James, a £1 million signing from Liverpool, in goal. As Mowbray is forced to leave the unselected Wright continues in central defence.

Sheff Wed v Blackburn
Trevor Francis, the Wednesday player-manager, selects himself in a Premier League squad for the first time since September but is unlikely to be more than a spectator against the League leaders. Shearer is out to increase his

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Man United v Wimbledon
They may be 25 million in the black, but United have drawn their last five league games, winning only one of the past ten. A lack of goals is the problem, but United, who are without the injured Irwin for the next month, will be on the front foot against the 0-0 draw against Coca-Cola defeat against Aston Villa at Villa Park. United need to drop that draw with their suggested targets about to blow their last assault on the table.

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Leeds Utd v Coventry
Leeds aim to extend

SPORT

SATURDAY OCTOBER 31 1992

BSJA split over claims that the bank which caused Sir Arkay's death did not follow previous constructions

Wembley show accused of ignoring advice



Tragic slip: Sir Arkay loses his footing on the controversial Wembley bank

Dwyer wants tour grand slam target

FROM DAVID HANDS IN DUBLIN

BOB Dwyer, Australia's rugby union coach, regrets that his world champions will not have the opportunity to play all four home unions on their tour. On the eve of the international against Ireland at Lansdowne Road today he called for a change in the touring pattern which would allow incoming teams to challenge for their own "grand slam".

The last team to achieve that was also Australian — Andrew Slack's team in 1984. That was the last long tour of Britain and Ireland, consisting of 18 matches. Since then few countries have undertaken tours of more than 13 games and the major overseas unions have had to be content with a division: the 1988 Australians played England and Scotland, the 1989 New Zealanders faced Ireland and Wales, as do these Australians and next year the All Blacks will play England and Scotland.

But Dwyer believes the re-

turn to the touring schedule of South Africa could alter the structure yet again. Given three major touring countries there would, he believes, be enough to go around for the home unions.

"I appreciate that players these days regard six weeks as the longest they can be away on tour, though in Australia we think seven is about the mark," Dwyer said in Dublin.

A casualty of Dwyer's scenario might be the traditional end-of-tour Barbarians match, but a British tour including more internationals is not so far removed from what, for example, the All Blacks played in Australia this year (three internationals, plus Queensland and NSW) and what the British Isles will face in New Zealand next summer (three internationals, plus Auckland).

Ireland's passion, page 27
Tour cancelled, page 27

Ruddock looks razor-sharp

BY SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

AFTER their head-to-head on Thursday, Lennox Lewis, the British and Commonwealth heavyweight boxing champion, and Donovan "Razor" Ruddock, the World Boxing Council (WBC) No. 1, were measuring up each other again yesterday at the weigh-in at the White House, London, for their world heavyweight championship eliminator tonight.

Both showed definite signs of how seriously they had been training for the last eight weeks. Lewis in the Boncinos Mountains, of Pennsylvania, and Ruddock at Palmas del Mar, in Puerto Rico. Lewis weighed 16st 3lb 8oz, five pounds lighter than when he met Mike Tyson in August. Ruddock scaled 16st 7lb 6oz, seven pounds lighter than his weight for the second meeting with Mike Tyson last year.

While Lewis was impressive and alert against Dixon, Ruddock did not look particularly quick against Tyson. But both men can be expected to be sharp this time, Lewis to avoid the big knockout left hook, and Ruddock to beat Lewis to the jab. Ruddock's trainer, Floyd Patterson, the former double world heavyweight champion, said: "Any weight you take off makes a big difference. I know when I was lighter I was much better."

Ruddock said: "I know what I am. I know what I've got. You are looking at the man who is going to be the next world heavyweight champion."

Meldrick Taylor, the world WBC welterweight champion, and Carrasco Espana, who boxes out of Belfast, also weighed in for their world championship bout on the same card, which promises to be of the highest class. Taylor, who is one of the finest boxers in the United States, and

comes from the same stable as Evander Holyfield, the world heavyweight champion, did not mind that the big men had been getting all the attention.

"It doesn't bother me," Taylor said. "They are heavyweights, they deserve respect. I am already known. I am a world champion. You are going to see the old Meldrick Taylor. If Taylor beats him he must be a superstar. Espana will win in five rounds."

The show at Earls Court tonight, which the finest programme put on for many years in Britain, has sold 9,000 tickets in a hall with a

capacity of 17,000. The heavyweight bout will go on at 1am tomorrow morning. The programme will be shown by HBO in the United States and Sky TV in Britain.

After the weigh-in, Nigel Benn was given his WBC super-middleweight belt by Jose Suliman, the president of the WBC.

Benn recently became the first Briton to win two world titles abroad, when he went to Rome and took the title from Mauro Galvano, of Italy.

The result of a referendum held by Sunderland to determine whether their supporters want to move from Roker Park to a £120 million complex featuring a 48,000 all-seat stadium will be officially

Battling Briton, page 30

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Holland

Poison pen hard to swallow

Miami

If he has any sense — and the jury is still out — Edwin Pope will not rush forward to congratulate Francois Boutin should Arazi win the Breeders' Cup Mile this afternoon.

Apart from being sports editor of the *Miami Herald*, Pope is past master of the insult and his chosen target this week would appear to have been Boutin. I say "appear", because the character he depicted bore no resemblance to the silver-haired Lamorlaye trainer who, to

front-page article headlined "Arazi's trainer: hoof in mouth", which carried on to an inside page entitled "Arazi's trainer is a snooty sort".

"Boutin is Arazi's aristocratic-looking and autocratic-acting French trainer," he said for openers, before describing "Boutin's penchant for jamming his foot and half his leg in his mouth on the infrequent occasions he opens it other than to eat".

There then followed a dialogue in which he accused Boutin of objectionable secrecy, regal snootiness and smuggling Arazi on to the racetrack shortly after 7am "in front of a corporal's guard of insomniacs".

Pope's inaccurate and offensive article only serves to underline the kid-glove treatment meted out to racing

silks of the four Makoun brothers will be notable by their absence at Gulfstream Park for racing's world championships. Although Shadil Mohammed — referred to here as His Sheikness — splashed out \$9 million for a half-share of Arazi last year, the horse carries the colours of Allen Paulson when running in the United States. Lion Cavern, entered for the Mile, was judged not to be good enough to run.

Meanwhile, in the real

race, a Florida columnist offered this analysis: "Let us give first prize in this seedy competition to Ross Perot... Step forward, partner, and accept this paper-wrapped pound of maggoty meat. It's rotten as you are."

A dough nut

The fortune Verne H. Winchell made out of doughnuts enabled him to indulge in his passion for horses.



Shake-up at Gulfstream

Incredibly, the ubiquitous silks of the four Makoun brothers will be notable by their absence at Gulfstream Park for racing's world championships. Although Shadil Mohammed — referred to here as His Sheikness — splashed out \$9 million for a half-share of Arazi last year, the horse carries the colours of Allen Paulson when running in the United States. Lion Cavern, entered for the Mile, was judged not to be good enough to run.

By contrast, the tremendous racing success enjoyed by Khaled Abdulla, a Saudi Arabian owner, is reflected in

jumped in the Derby event tomorrow evening, easier — even though all 40 horses in the competition last year jumped down without incident. An eight-foot wide ledge has been constructed halfway down. Horses then jump off the ledge as though off a smaller bank.

"I didn't want to change it but the last thing the sport needs is any more bad publicity so I changed it against the million-to-one chance that there might be another accident," Duggan said.

His bank is built like that at Wembley, with rubber-faced bricks but, unlike Wembley, it has a base of concrete panels. It is an attractive fence, unlikely to spook the horses and does bears no similarity to Wembley's more makeshift structure.

The eight-year-old Sir Arkay, ridden by Jurg Friedli, was not wearing studs when he was third to go in the Everest Derby at Wembley. Half way down the bank, Sir Arkay lost his footing and broke his near foreleg. He was put down immediately and the bank was removed from the competition.

Because of the furore over the Wembley bank, Duggan has made his bank to be

Ireland agrees to Blackburn move

BY LOUISE TAYLOR

KENNY Dalglish returned to the transfer market yet again yesterday and brought Simon Ireland to the Premier League leaders, Blackburn Rovers, for £200,000 from Huddersfield Town. The winger, 20, has played only 25 games for the struggling second division side, scoring just one goal — against Blackburn in the Coca-Cola Cup.

So impressed was Dalglish with that one goal — which left Blackburn within five minutes of being knocked out of the second round of the competition — that he offered Huddersfield the £200,000 with a further £50,000 to come if Ireland makes 50 first-team appearances. The Yorkshire side will receive 20 per cent of any future profit Blackburn make on the player.

The transfer represents potentially the biggest deal in Huddersfield's history and Ian Ross, their manager and a friend of Dalglish from their schooldays in Glasgow, said: "This is very big business for Huddersfield Town, but it is also a great opportunity for Simon to prove himself at the highest level."

By Dalglish's standards, it is a modest piece of business, but one which should keep Stuart Rixley, the impressive £1.2 million, winger, Blackburn signed from Middlesbrough this summer, on his toes. Rixley faces a late fitness test on his injured back before today's Premier League match at Sheffield Wednesday.

Stig Inge Bjornebye, a Norwegian international midfield player, is thinking over a mooted £500,000 move from Rosenborg of Norway, to Liverpool. The player fears that a lack of a guaranteed place at Anfield could jeopardise his international career.

Graeme Souness, the Liverpool manager, is keen to allay Bjornebye's fears.

These animals are soul and blood and flesh. They are not machines. Sometimes you hit the jackpot. Sometimes you don't," he says.

Running marvel
Fred Lebow, founder and director of the New York marathon, which is run tomorrow, should, by all rights, be dead. In early 1990, he was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumour. Doctors operated twice and told him he would be lucky to live six months. A year later, thyroid cancer was discovered and the surgeon's knife was wielded once again. Amazingly, he has survived it all and tomorrow, for the first time since the marathon's inception in 1970, the 60-year-old

FILM

LES AMANTS DU PONT NEUF (18): Laos Carax's hymn to Paris and a punk bum's love for a young artist going blind. Terrific in spirit, and a real movie movie. Metro (071-437 0737) Renoir (071-837 8402).

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST (U): Sumptuous Disney cartoon fairy-tale, blessed with skilled animation and attractive songs that might have sprung from a Broadway musical. Directors, Gary Trousdale, Kirk Wise. Camden Parkway (071-267 7034) MGM Chelsea (071-352 5098) MGM Oxford Street (071-636 0310) Odeon Kensington (020-914666) Marble Arch (0426 914501) West End (0426 913574) Screen on Baker Street (071-935 2772) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

BOOMERANG (15): Preening Madison Avenue Lothario gets his comeuppance. Dislikeable Eddie Murphy vehicle. Robin Givens, Halle Berry, director, Reginald Hudlin. MGM Baker Street (071-935 9772) MGM Fulham Road (071-2635 0310) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Plaza (071-497 9999) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

1482: CONQUEST OF PARADISE (15): Lashings of atmosphere from director Ridley Scott, but not enough dramatic meat. Gerard Depardieu as Columbus; Sigourney Weaver as Queen Isabella. Barbican (071-638 8891) Empire (071-497 9999) MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

THE CRYING GAME (18): IRA gunman becomes obsessed with a hostage's girlfriend. Bold, powerful Neil Jordan film that falters at the close. Stephen Rea, Forest Whitaker, Jaye Davidson, Miranda Richardson. Cinema Plaza (071-485 2443) Curzon West End (071-439 4805) MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2626) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

GLENGARRY GLEN ROSS (15): Real-estate salesmen fight for their lives. Energetic version of David Mamet's play, though Jack Lemmon goes over the top. Al Pacino, Ed Harris; director, James Foley. Odeon Haymarket (0426 915353).

HUSBANDS AND WIVES (15): Woody Allen's best film in years, a lacerating tale of collapsing New York marriages. Stan Allen, Mia Farrow, Judy Davis, Liam Neeson, Juliette Lewis. Gate (071-727 4043) Lumière (071-836 0691) Odeon Kensington (0426 514666) Screen on the Green (071-226 3520) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

LOVERS (18): In Franco's Spain, Victoria Abril steals her lodger's intended marriage. Excellent film of mad love, expertly filmed by director Vicente Aranda. MGM Piccadilly (071-437 3561).

MON PERE, CE HEROS (PG): Flimsy adventure of a divorced father (Gerard Depardieu) and his teenage daughter on holiday in Mauritius. Marie Gillain; director, Gerard Lauzier. Curzon Phoenix (071-240 9661) MGM Chelsea (071-352 5098) MGM Swiss Centre (071-439 4470).

PRAGUE (12): Callow Scot searches for family history in the Czechoslovak film archive. Wistful drama with modest charms from writer-director Ian Sellar. With Sandrine Bonnaire, Bruno Ganz. Camden Parkway (071-267 7034) Minema (071-235 4225).

STRICTLY BALLROOM (PG): One dancer's fight to defy the rules of the Australian Ballroom Dancing Federation. Eloquent, intoxicating debut by director Baz Luhrmann. With Paul Mercurio, Tara Morice.

MGM Chelsea (071-352 5098) MGM Oxford Street (071-636 0310) Odeon: Kensington (0426 914666) Marble Arch (0426 914501) West End (0426 913574) Screen on Baker Street (071-935 2772) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

THUNDERHEART (15): FBI agent Val Kilmer rediscovers his Indian heritage in South Dakota. Engrossing thriller from director Michael Apted. Stars Sam Shepard, Graham Greene. MGM Haymarket (071-839 1527).

UNFORGIVEN (15): Clint Eastwood's mellowed gunman is forced to resurrect his lethal skills. Marvelously resonant, reflective Western. Gene Hackman, Morgan Freeman. Barbican (071-638 8891) Empire (071-497 9999) MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636) MGM Haymarket (071-839 1527) MGM Oxford Street (071-636 0310) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Notting Hill Coronet (071-727 6705) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

UNLAWFUL ENTRY (18): Sicko cop creates havoc for Los Angeles couple. Exasperating thriller with wasted potential. Ray Liotta, Madeleine Stowe, Kurt Russell; director, Jonathan Kaplan. Odeon Leicester Square (0426 915683).

MIRANDA RICHARDSON as *Jude* in *The Crying Game*

THEATRE

LONDON

BREAKING BOUNDARIES: Four foreign companies play at the Tricycle and the National Theatre as part of the European Festival of Theatre for Children and Young People. From Italy: *Town Map*, for four years and up; *Nobody Blinded the Giant*, for six years and up; from Portugal: *Tomorrow, for seven years and up*; from Denmark: *Train for 12 years and up*. All highly visual and performed mainly in English. Performances at various times from tomorrow to next Sat (Nov 7).

THE WEXFORD TRAILOGY: Revival of Billy Roche's celebrated chronicles of small-town life opens with *A Handful of Stars*: young rogue makes killing time in the pool halls. *Poor Beast* in the Rain and *Belly* to follow. In repertory from Nov 23. Bush, Shepherds Bush Green, W1 (071-928 5065). Previews from Fri, 7pm. Opens Nov 10, 8pm.

TRISTRADFORD-UPON-AVON: Richard Johnson and Claire Higgins star in *Antony and Cleopatra*, directed by John Caird. Lust, murder and madness star Cheryl Campbell and Malcolm Storry, in Middleton's *The Changeling*. Michael Atttenborough directs. And Richard McCabe plays Marlowe in Peter Whelan's *Marlow of Night*.

Royal Shakespeare/The Globe: *Antony and Cleopatra* (0726 295623), *Antony and Cleopatra*: previews today, 1.30pm and 7.30pm, Mon-Wed, 7.30pm; opens Thurs, 7pm, *The Changeling*: previews today, 1.30pm and 7.30pm, Mon, 7.30pm; opens Tues, 7pm, next Sat, 7.30pm.

REGISTRATION: *The Octagon's Silver Anniversary*: Bill Naughton's *Alfie*, with Gary Webster and Liz Smith.

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE/The Globe: *Antony and Cleopatra*: previews today, 7pm, City Hall, Sheffield, (0742 735295), tomorrow, 7pm, SECC, Glasgow, (041-248 3000), Mon-Wed, 7.30pm; opens Thurs, 7pm, *The Changeling*: previews today, 1.30pm and 7.30pm, Mon, 7.30pm; opens Tues, 7pm, next Sat, 7.30pm.

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Happiness is a pig in a potato patch on a wet weekend

Until last weekend I never thought it was possible for a pig to grin. Pigs' moods are easy to determine by listening to their grunts, which will be low and rumbling if in a conversational mood, or high-pitched and piercing if tetchy. But never in my experience does a pig have a facial expression. However, last Saturday night, I am certain that, for possibly the first time in anthropological history, I saw a pig beam.

It is because we held our annual Potato Picking Weekend, during which we invite the public to follow our horses along the furrows, bending and plucking from the soil succulent, organic spuds. Cutting woe, eh? Not only does it save me the trouble of having to pick them up myself, which with our aged machinery is a slow, back-breaking and costly business (teams of pickers have to be paid), but it offers an opportunity for those who

FARMER'S DIARY: PAUL HEINEY

have not seen carthorses at work, or plumped their hands into soil, to get stuck in. Children sink to their wellington tops in the mud and compete to find the largest potato. The tiniest just stand and gaze at the Suffolk Punctus and, when they have come to terms with this overpowering presence, brave themselves to ask the horses' names.

But the adults are the most entertaining. At any given moment you will see one man with a cancooter: in his mind he is remaking *Far From the Madding Crowd*, but in reality he is not even likely to make the Jeremy Beadle show. Then there are the devoutly green-minded ones who bend and pick with religious fervour, giving

thanks for the rich smells of the freshly turned soil and handling each picked potato as if it were a miracle in itself. And we will get others who mutter, "My old dad, grey taters — he wouldn't think much of these little ones," as they fling aside a cannonball of a spud.

Back in the farmyard, a trusty team of neighbours man the weighing scales and herds the crowd towards the farm shop. Once there, they have to confront my wife, who, it has to be said, is more at home at her desk than bending over a freezer being quizzed about the difference between rolled rib and topside. But she bravely plays the part of the farmer's wife, only balking at questions such as "Hey, didn't you used to be something or

other — before you worked here?" Strange how many people get a frozen hunk of brisket dropped on their toes.

So what is there in all this to cause the pigs to grin? The answer

couldn't clear the entire field. I would not bother to pick the potatoes that remained. There is currently a potato glut and prices are so low that it is barely economic to unearth them. But they would not go to waste, for that most efficient of potato-lifters, the pig's snout, would finish the job for me. I would turn pigs on to the field and they could spend from now until Christmas in a nutritional treasure hunt. Word of this plan reached them and, as the storm clouds gathered, the piggies began to grin.

Hoping for better weather than forecast, we prepared for the second day, deciding to offer cups of tea and a traditional Suffolk bun called "fours". These are a heavy blend of flour, egg, lard and currants, described by my aged recipe book as "filling". It is said that ploughmen took them to the field on harsh winter days. The ones we made were better suited to prop-

ing up the legs of wobbly tables. Imagine scenes cast in plaster of Paris and you get the picture. One old woman said: "Mum, I remember them. Of course, we were poor in those days. We had to eat things like that." Also, we had made 200.

To the credit of our customers, the weather did not deter them. In lashing rain they slopped along the furrows, wiping the mud from their hands on the grassy headland, applauding the horses who were having to pull with all their might to get the potato machine through the sodden soil. And as basket after basket was taken from the field, the pigs grew ever more gloomy as they saw meal by meal disappear into paper sacks. They lined up at the fence and gazed despairingly, as the last ridge was lifted. "Never mind," I cried to the pigs. "It's fours all round for tea."

Not only can pigs grin, they can sneer too!



Beauty in words and pictures: Parsons Norman captured the poppies of Cromer on canvas, while Clement Scott's colourful prose started a tourist boom

Pilgrim to Poppy-Land

Lynne Truss finds heaven in an East Anglian garden immortalised by the writer Clement Scott 100 years ago

Imagine you are a Victorian journalist, the drama critic of *The Daily Telegraph*, visiting the new seaside resort of Cromer in the 1880s. Dressed in appropriate costume — funny hat, Norfolk jacket, pointed stick — you strike out along the high, crumpling cliffs to the southeast on a hot August day, and get slightly carried away by the whole thing. There are poppies abounding, the sky is blue and the sea sparkles like diamonds. It is fantastic, quite honestly, and extraordinarily quiet.

And then, when you least expect it, you discover a lonely church tower (one church) standing in lofty silence amid graves and poppies, waiting with dignity for the not-to-distant day when it will slide inexorably into the sea. Since you are a man who has been exposed to Ibsen, the symbolism can hardly escape you. Basically, as a journalist in search of colour, you have died and gone to heaven.

It was in this heightened state of nerve-endings, I suspect, that Clement Scott came to eulogise "Poppy-Land" in the columns of *The Daily Telegraph* on August 30, 1883. His piece appeared alongside some exciting sports items, an angry letter about extortionate cab fares, and a short news-flash about a man who set fire to his wife, yet somehow it managed to catch the public imagination and establish an association be-

cause it was a bit odd.

Such last-gasp dying-fall poignancy suffuses the story.

The young woman (19 when Scott first stayed at the Mill House) is exposed to Scott's high-society theatrical friends, only to be dumped later when the century closes. Scott dies and Poppy-Land fades in the public's imagination. Later, the tower crashes into the sea, as does the woman's house. What a third-act climax!

As I dashed to Cromer



Poetic Clement Scott

down poppy-lined lanes, I felt I was really on to something. And I was. The only trouble was that the TV play (with the giveaway title *Poppyland*) was written and broadcast seven years ago, with Alan Howard starring as Scott. I discovered this at the Cromer Museum, where a nice curator told me it had been a good play, too, covering every aspect of the story very well. Heigh-ho, I said, pretending not to care.

But the point of all this is that I still kept telling people about Poppy-Land afterwards, and, reading them bits of Clement Scott's popular poem *The Garden of Sleep*, even when they begged me not to. Here is a longish bit, to get the flavour:

*On the grass of the cliff, at the edge of the steep,
God planted a garden — a garden of sleep!*

*Neath the blue of the sky, in the green of the corn,
It is there that the regal red poppies are born!*

Brief days of desire, and long dreams of delight,

They are mine when my Poppy-Land cometh in sight.

In music of distance, with eyes that are wet,

It is there I remember, and there I forget!

Of heart of my heart! where the poppies are born,

I am waiting for thee, in the hush of the corn.

Sleep! Sleep!

From the Cliff to the Deep! Sleep, my Poppy-Land.

Sleep!

This is the sort of stuff you either love or hate, I suppose. And in the end one of my friends, Christine Stockwell, decided that she loved it enough to re-publish Clement Scott's long unobtainable *Poppy-Land Papers*, in a facsimile edition. It came out this week, and I hasten to say that Scott's prose was rather better than his verse (or not so repetitive, anyway). Though he has been reviled in theatrical history for his obstinate dislike of Ibsen (phrases such as "an open drain" and "a loathsome sore unbandaged" give the

strength of feeling), he was nevertheless a very readable critic with clear ideas. Even his comments on Ibsen seem pretty good sometimes, especially when he advises the author of *Pillars of Society* to "cut the candle and come to the 'osse".

For the present-day pilgrim on the trail of Poppy-Land, there is not much left to see, unfortunately. Not only has the tower gone (fell off the cliff in 1916, unremarked), but so, of course, has the ground it stood on. The windmill has gone, too; and the little seat erected somewhere on the B1159 in memory of Louis Jerny evaded all my plucky attempts to find it.

The Mill House has not changed much from when Scott brought his famous friends down from London — Swinburne, Henry Irving — but there is no name on the gate, so it is hard to identify. But something does still remain of the garden of sleep — the poppies. Excuse me while I wipe a tear, but they were breathtaking. "All these poppies?" People said it might be because farmers use fewer chemicals, or perhaps it is the influence of set-aside, but there were definitely more poppies around this year. Talk about heaven.

Christine Stockwell's facsimile edition of *Poppy-Land Papers* (£8.95) is available from her at 4 Reform Place, Seaford, Lincs, NG34 7QR, and from certain East Anglian bookshops.

There are times when you feel you are walking through an English park. If you get up at five o'clock in the morning you can stroll through sun-dappled glades in an African cool.

The trees have a tended look, like those in Richmond Park, and for the same reason. Deer — or antelope over here — eat the leaves and establish a neat, straight browse line across both Richmond Park and the Luangwa valley.

You listen to the pleasant song of robin — Meugins's robin, to be sure — and admire the silly goat-call of the bleating bush warbler. All very calm, very peaceful.

Old male buffaloes have an equally tough repuation. These are animals with a grudge against the world. They have been kicked out of the herd by younger bulls and live out their half-lives in a state of permanent flight.

Perhaps this is too strange a view. Certainly, it is the very least, it was an armed neutrality. Both sides were prepared to tolerate each other closer than was quite wise. And both

sides had fearsome weapons, should things deteriorate.

They did. Perry is, as I say, cool in the bush, and so are lions. We sat, they sat. They watched, we watched.

After a long while — the air full of the sound of crunching bones, the odd snarl and scuffle — we withdrew. We did so with infinite tact at a suitably glancing angle, using such cover as we found. And the lions just watched us go.

Afterwards, I could hardly speak for the wonder of it, and the wonder had nothing to do with danger.

It was a matter of awed privilege that such beasts still exist: that they permit such proximity, that, mammal to mammal, there is a time and a place where lions and humans can lower their guards for a while.

Simon Barnes is staying in Svanahuti Tents, Luangwa National Park, Zambia.

Lunching with lions

Such moments tend to drive the bleating bush warblers out of your mind.

Shall I boast about all the grisly dangers I am facing daily? Certainly, every walk you take could lead to trouble, that is why you must walk in Luangwa with a warthog like Perry.

Hippos are said to be the most dangerous beasts: an alarmed hippo will make for water and safety, and will go clear through anything and anyone in its path.

Old male buffaloes have an equally tough repuation. These are animals with a grudge against the world. They have been kicked out of the herd by younger bulls and live out their half-lives in a state of permanent flight.

There is a real temptation to elaborate on the perils of the bush. Well, it is not sensible to make light of them, but that

BUSH TELEGRAPH
Simon Barnes

principle holds well for a M25. The dangers exist, but that is not the point. It is not, in the main, a frightening experience. It is an immense pleasure.

You can get better views of lions from a vehicle, but to see them while you are on foot is one of the most colossal, uncompromisingly vivid experiences life can offer. Is it the sense of danger? I think not. I think it has something to do with the exchange of ideas.

In a vehicle, you are a noisy, smelly, meaningless intrusion, and lions mostly ignore you. On foot, the lions recognise

you as mammal to mammal, too. One capable of killing at long range, for no reason that makes sense to a lion, or to me for that matter.

But within the boundaries of the park, between humans and lions there exists something akin to trust.

Perry and I got within about 60 yards of our pride that day. The lions were well aware of us. Relaxed in the bliss of lemming digestion, they watched us and they tolerated us. We were at the optimum distance.

Perry judged it to a nicely. To have gone any closer would have been an act of provocation; one more likely to induce flight than flight.

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Feather report

Winter wonderbirds

THE fields often look bleak and bare in winter. Perhaps a carrion crow will drift across, with a confident, languid flap of its wings — and almost, a moment later, its mate will appear. A skylark flies up from the green rows of winter wheat with a brisk, musical call. Two or three woodpigeons follow it with an air of panic, and head for the woods. Then all is silence and stillness again.

But it is not yet time for the birdwatcher to turn home. In a hedge, there is a flurry of wings. A flock of small birds is moving further along the line of hawthorns and sloes. Move quietly after them and you are likely to find four or five species of finch or bunting in this party of foragers.

If there are any yellowhammers, they will be the most conspicuous. They flick their tails on the topmost twigs of the hedge, yellow heads almost as brilliant as in spring.

There will be, almost certainly, plenty of greenfinches, hidden deeper in the bushes but just as vivid with their olive-green bodies and gold wings. They are the noisiest members of the flock, making a loud, staccato twit as they sweep away. Early in the winter they are found in, particularly, hedgerow hornbeams. The males keep only a trace of their striking black and white head-pattern, but you can see that they still have rich and intricate markings of black and brown and cream on their backs, like an exquisite rug.

A bird that can be puzzling at first is one that looks like a long-tailed sparrow. It is a reed bunting in its winter plumage. In the autumn, it leaves the lake edges, where it nests, for the fields and farmyards.

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Homely meals Eastern style

Frances Bissell, the Times cook, is taking a true taste of Britain to Bangkok. Here are some of her favourite recipes

I SHALL follow a food route of my own next month, taking British produce and recipes to Thailand, where I have been invited to be guest cook at the Dusit Thani hotel in Bangkok. On my return, I expect I shall be cooking with herbs and spices, Thai fashion.

Thailand, its cooking never having been colonised, reflects less outside influence than many other cuisines, with one notable exception: the chillies, which have insinuated themselves into most of the world's kitchens. Thai peppers are among the hottest, particularly the tiny bird peppers, red and green. What a contrast they make to the pale, subdued northern flavours that I shall be using in my cooking in Bangkok; nothing hotter than a mild touch of horseradish or mustard.

Blue Stilton and pickled herrings will be the strongest flavours. Cider and cider vinegar will be my cooking medium; no fermented fish sauce. Parsley, chives and chervil will be my herbs, with a hint of rosemary and sage in some of the roasts. Basil, coriander and lemon grass will be left to one side for when I go for some Thai cooking lessons in the kitchens of the Benjarong hotel.

I have agreed with Jacques Lafargue, the executive chef at the Dusit Thani, to avoid any hints of "east meets west" in my cooking in favour of a true taste of Britain. Will the brie, honey and saffron tart pass his scrutiny, I wonder? It should, for a soft brie-type cheese was made in England in Norman times, and today's recipe is based on a dish described in our oldest cookery book, the 14th-century *Forme of Cury*.

Other dishes I plan to cook reflect the influence on English cooking of the cargoes brought back along the spice routes from the east; our use of ginger, cinnamon and nutmeg has a long history.

I have chosen a few of my favourite recipes for today, as they seem entirely appropriate for a weekend lunch or dinner. And I had to include the parkin. Nothing could be more seasonal. It was a staple in my parents' household around November 5.

Cream of potato, onion and lovage soup
(serves 6)

1 large onion, peeled and sliced
1 or 2 cloves of garlic peeled and crushed
1oz/30g unsalted butter
1lb/455g potatoes
lovage leaves — if these are not available, use celery stalks and leaves
2pt/1.15l water or stock
4pt/140ml single cream
seasoning
garnish: lovage leaves

the salt and garlic to a paste, and then add the other ingredients, one at a time, making sure that each one is thoroughly blended before adding the next. The garlic can be left out if preferred.

Arrange the scallops on the salad leaves. Spoon the dressing over the top, and serve immediately. Serve with beetroot crisps for garnish if you like. These are made by thinly slicing raw beetroot, drying thoroughly on paper towels and deep-frying in a neutral vegetable oil, such as groundnut or sunflower, heated to 180C/350F. The crisps cook very quickly and should be drained thoroughly on paper towels before serving.

Roast of lamb with three mustards
(serves 2; not many roasts are suitable for only two people, but the best end of lamb is ideal, with 6 or 7 small cutlets)

1 best end of lamb, chin bone removed
2 cloves garlic
1tbsp Dijon mustard
1tbsp tarragon mustard
1tbsp grain mustard, such as *Mustarde de Meaux* or one of the English versions
1tbsp chopped tarragon
salt, pepper
juice of half a lemon
1tbsp olive oil
1oz/30g fine breadcrumbs

If the butcher has not already done so, trim the ribs down to the thick, meaty fillet and remove the outer layer of fat. When carved, this will give an "eye" of meat on each trimmed bone, and very little fat.

With the exception of the breadcrumbs, mix the rest of the ingredients and spread all over the surface of the meat. You can then leave it to marinate overnight or cook immediately, as you prefer. Make sure the meat is at room temperature before you cook it, which you should do in a preheated oven set at 200C/400F, gas mark 6, for 20 minutes. After 10 minutes, sprinkle the meat with breadcrumbs, and press them in lightly. Return the meat to the oven. When done, allow it to rest in a warm place for 15 minutes before carving. This will allow the juices to redistribute through the meat.

Cheese, honey and saffron tart
(serves 4-6)

pinch of saffron threads
8oz/230g short pastry



Wine list

FROM today, my column will include recommended wines to go with the dishes. Sunday lunch in our house is fairly traditional and with today's lamb recipe we would drink a claret, a *petit château* perhaps from the 1983 or '85 vintage. To go with the scallop salad, I would choose a crisp, young chablis.

4oz/110g curd cheese
4oz/110g mild brie or similar cheese
3tbsp honey
3tbsp water
2 size 3 eggs

Soak saffron threads for 20 minutes in a tablespoon of hot water. Roll out pastry and line a 10in/25cm rimmed pie dish. Use trimmings to decorate rim with pastry leaves or a plait. Put curd

cheese in a bowl, remove rind from the brie and mix thoroughly with the curd cheese. Melt honey with two tablespoons water. Mix honey and saffron liquid with cheese and beat in the two eggs. Pour mixture carefully into the pie dish and bake in a preheated oven at 190C/375F, gas mark 5, for 15 minutes, then turn it down to 170C/325F, gas mark 3, for a further 20 minutes or so. Serve warm or cold.

Bakewell pudding

(serves 4-6)

4lb/230g plain or sweet short pastry
apricot or raspberry jam

DIANA LEADBETTER

4lb/110g caster sugar
4 free-range eggs
4lb/110g unsalted butter, melted
1oz/30g plain flour, sifted
3oz/85g ground almonds
lemon juice

Line a 9in/22cm tart tin with the pastry and spread it with a generous layer of jam. Whisk the sugar and eggs in a bowl set over hot water until thick and pale. Mix in the melted butter, then fold in flour and almonds. Add lemon juice to taste. Spread the mixture evenly over the jam. Bake in a preheated oven at 180C/350F, gas mark 4, until set, about 35 minutes.

Parkin

(makes a 2lb loaf)

1lb/455g plain flour
1tbsp baking powder
pinch of salt
4lb/230g butter, lard or margarine, or a mixture
1lb/455g fine or medium oatmeal
1lb/455g golden syrup
6oz/170g black treacle or molasses sugar
4tbsp milk
1 free-range egg

Grease a roasting tin or square cake tin, about 10in by 10in/25cm by 25cm or equivalent, line with greaseproof paper and lightly grease the paper.

Sift the first three ingredients together, and then rub in the fat. Stir in the oatmeal. Put the golden syrup, black treacle or molasses and milk in a saucepan and heat gently until melted. Mix in the dry ingredients and lastly add the egg. The batter should be thoroughly mixed and of a thick pouring consistency. Add some more warm milk, if you feel it necessary.

Pour the mixture into the prepared tin, and bake for about an hour in the middle of a preheated oven at 180C/350F, gas mark 4. When done, the cake will shrink slightly from the edges. Allow to cool in the tin. Remove the lining paper, wrap in greaseproof and foil, and ideally keep for a week before eating.

DIARY DATES

• November 12-15: Cooking and Kitchen Show, sponsored by BBC Good Food, National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham. £7 at door, £5.50 booked in advance through the ticket hotline on 021-780 4133.

• November 16-21: Frances Bissell will be cooking lunch and dinner in the Tiai restaurant of the Dusit Thani Hotel in Bangkok. Her afternoon tea specialities will be served in the lobby and the library.

• November 18: Anton Mosimann gives a 1½-hour cookery demonstration at the Kensington Hilton, west London, to raise money for Victims Support Kensington and Chelsea. Tickets, including reception, £30 (£50 for two) from Room 11, Thorpe Close, London W10 5XW. For further information, contact Shelley-Anne Clatworthy (071-823 9992) or Marie-Pierre Moine (071-727 8641).

Plonk for a good, cheap wine

Prices are falling and quality is rising, reports Jane MacQuitty

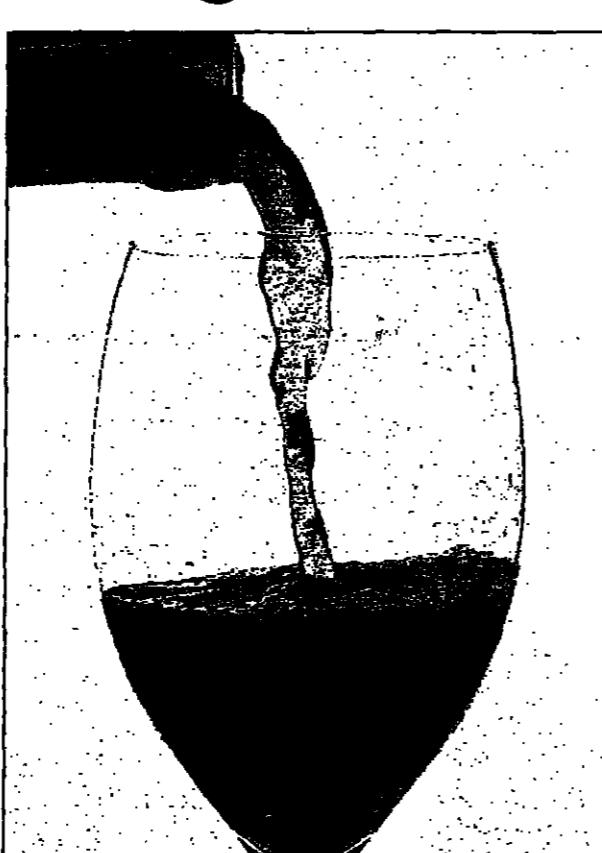
You have only £2.99 to spend on a bottle of wine? Relax, you are in good company. Seventy per cent of all bottles of wine sold in Britain cost £3 or under, and half of these sales are in the £2.50 or less category. Traditional wine traders will hate to be reminded that only 3 per cent of this country's wine sales are on bottles costing more than £4.

Although snobs and wine shop specialists would have us believe otherwise, the recession has pared wine prices to the bone, and it is possible to drink well and widely at the £2.99 and below level. As my tasting this week effortlessly proved, the flood of decent £2.99 bottles shows no signs of abating. And it is the sensible, not snooty, wine drinkers who have been enjoying this recession bonanza.

Quite how the wine trade keeps the £2.99 and, particularly, the £1.99 bottles going is a mystery. With duty on table wine up to 95p a bottle, plus another 30p or so of VAT on even the cheapest wine, it is hard to see where the retailers' mark-up and actual cost of the wine fits in — even harder if you take into account the other fixed costs of bottling, labelling, corking and capping, shipping and distribution, which must total at least another 50p.

Tesco and other retailers admit they do not make money out of the £1.99 bottles. "We are keeping them going as our own expense," Tesco says.

Wine traders are doing their



Glass of good cheer: even £1.99 wines are worth drinking

best to wring every ounce of value for customers out of their £3 and below bottles. Marks & Spencer is now using plastic corks on its cheaper wines in an attempt to shave a few more pennies off the price.

Similarly, Safeway is this autumn shipping New World wines in bulk from areas such as California and Australia to France for bottling there, before importing these wines to the UK. As a result, Safeway cuts out several middle men and can offer a reasonable, sound,appy Australian white, albeit in a fruit juice-style Tetrapak, for as little as £2.59. Tesco has a similar scheme

with its International Wine-maker range, the brainchild of Tesco and Bordelais Jacques Lurton, who travels the world overseeing production.

As some wine traders begin to deliver quality at these rock-bottom prices, their greatest price war is beginning — so much with each other, but in the face of the currency crisis. Sterling's effective devaluation against the French franc and the German mark is likely to hit the £2.99 drinker. Much of Britain's good, ordinary drinking comes from these two countries. Wine drinkers may eventually have to pay 10p more on cheaper

• Bulgarian Country Wine, Pavlitseni, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot, Asda £2.45, Victoria Wine £2.75. **Thresher Wine Rack £2.89.** More musky, herbaceous and blackcurrant than the wine above, and a shade less fine, but still great value.

• 1985 Romania Dealul Mare Special Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon, Safeway £2.99. Robust red with beefy, cedar flavours.

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The cheaper New World wines worth trying include Safeway's zesty lime and lemon-scented Californian White (£2.85), its spicy, lemony Semillon from New South Wales (£2.85) and its soft, plump and cherry-layered Californian Red (£2.85). Tesco's Jacques Lurton '92 Mendoza Blanc from Argentina, with a 13 per cent alcohol volume (£2.99), and Oddbins' Californian '90 Monterey Vineyard Pinot Noir with a juicy, gamy, liquorice finish (£2.99). From Europe try Davison's Pampane red, and white with a marzipan bouquet (£2.89); Marks & Spencer's St Michael '92 Vin de Pays des Pyrénées Orientales (£2.99), and Oddbins' fresh, smoky-apple '91 Castillo de Oíta white from Navarra (£2.99), or the tempranillo fruit of the fine '91 Vega de Moriz red from Valdepeñas (£2.69).

From the Duke of Perth was in that is. Handbooks were left

PROVEN

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Where is the midlife turn-off?

Patrick Stoddart
steers clear of
crisis and
cruises to 50

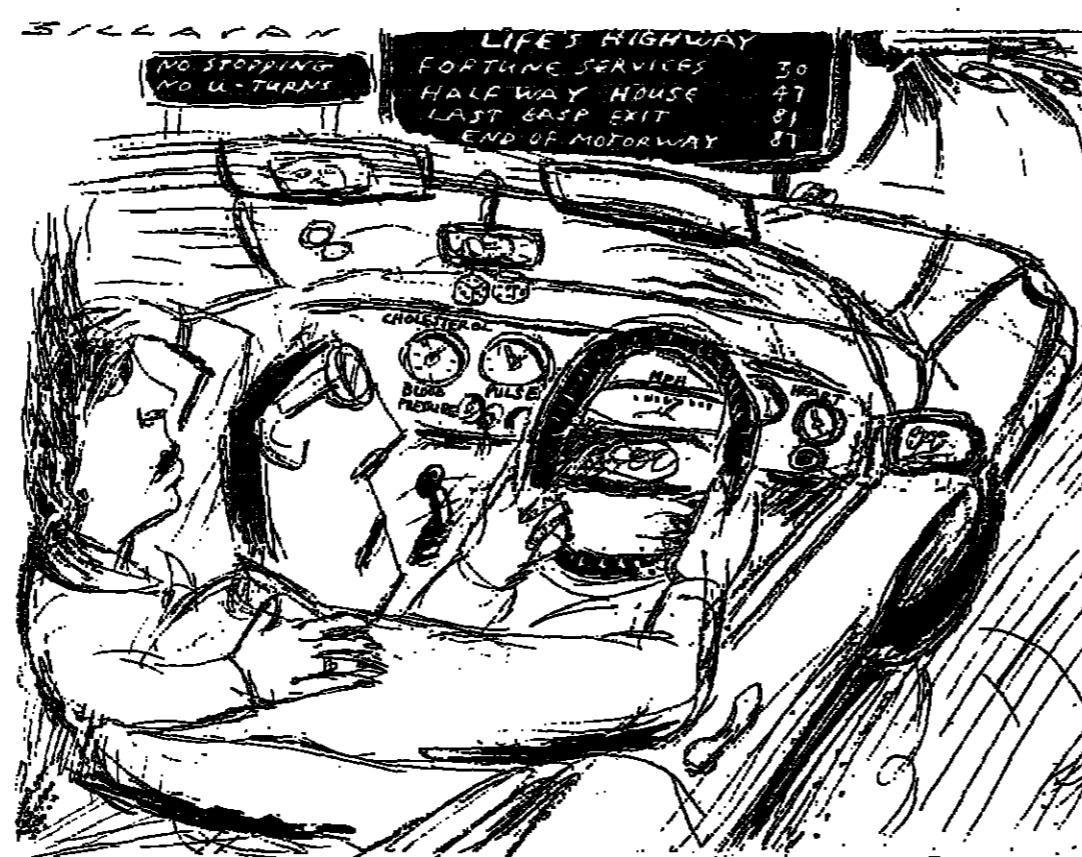
40
WHY do we all dread facing the age of 40? And before you slip into angst-speak about midlife crises, crows-feet and backache, what I mean is, why is 40 the age we all dread facing? It is after all, a purely notional milestone along life's winding highway, which bears little or no relationship to the length of time we reckon to be lumbered with this mortal coil. If, for example, you're of a biblical turn of mind, you probably expect to live three score years and ten, so why does trembling fear of the future not freeze your heart at 35? If, on the other hand, you are a slave to the austral Nineties, the following statistics may allow you to postpone your midlife crisis for a few years — or, depending on your present age, make you realise that you should have had it years ago.

According to a survey published last week by the Continuous Mortality Investigation Bureau of the Institute of Actuaries and the Scottish Faculty of Actuaries (who can argue with an organisation whose name is longer than the lifecycle of certain species of fruit fly?), non-smoking men now reach an average age of 87 and smoking men averagely cough their last at 81, while women can reckon to see out their 91st birthday unless the Woodbines carry them off at 85.

This means that non-smoking women should not, in theory, give a second thought to midlife until they are 45+, years old; women who smoke should have their first hot flush at 42+, and the only group that needs to break into a sweat with the arrival of The Big Four-O are men who smoke for comfort whenever they are reminded that they are nearing middle age.

But while statistics mirror life, life does not mirror statistics, and these days the midlife crisis seems to run from one bus pass age to the next. In general terms, it is more or less accepted that women begin to feel time marching over them when they can count their remaining child-bearing years on one hand, while men, 25 into decline if they were 30.

It was, I confess, a trap I fell into myself. I spent so much of my 39th year worrying about not being rich and famous in time for my thirtieth birthday that when the time it came along I was fresh out of angst. The



fact is, though, that this is all myth, and only one of the many that surround the natural law which decrees that nobody is allowed to grow younger.

Take the old saw that men improve with the years while women begin to fade the day after their eighteenth birthday. Everything from childhood and fatty tissue to harsh washing powder and split ends have been blamed, but I suspect it is a rumour spread by ageing lechers with shares in make-up factories.

It really doesn't have to be like that. It is my very good fortune for instance, to be married to a woman who by any reckoning is more attractive at 40 than she was at 20. Not only is she still preposterously good-looking, but the past two decades have given her a wisdom and wit that you couldn't have found with a Geiger counter in the naïve, jargonising flower-child I met in 1972.

As for me, at the age of 48, my hair and most of my teeth are my own, and I still play rugby. True, I have merciful genes, a masterful osteopath and team-mates with the compassion of Mother Teresa, but it has never occurred to me to quit purely because of my age. Lack of talent and the increasing likelihood that bits of my body are beginning to fall off, perhaps, but age, no.

It is true, of course, that nature starts to play nasty tricks on the mind and body as we venture into

our middle years. Organs once taken for granted begin to show the first signs of betrayal, and such changes have to be dealt with. It hurts to hear my doctor dismiss my increasingly frequent nocturnal visits to the lavatory as "a bit of prostate" — what I desperately wanted to hear was that I had a treatable illness, not something I should expect at my age.

BUT with the honourable exception of those who have led truly hard lives or who have been prematurely withered by illness, nobody actually needs to let age weary them — even if it sometimes makes the mornings a little more painful. It would be facile to say we are as old as we feel, but it is fairly accurate to say that we allow convention to age us before our time — that we let the advertising industry, lunatically youth-obsessed employers and children set our body clocks for us.

There is alleged to be a moment at which you can no longer wear the clothes of the young, even if they happen to suit you. Speaking as someone who never quite fitted into the skin-tight shirts and hipster jeans of my Sixties youth, baggy jackets and trousers did not come along a moment too soon, and I intend to wear them until I am 81.

Then there is the moment when you are supposed to stop listening to pop music, even though those of us who were weaned on Glenn Miller, who cut our teeth on Presley and who came of age with the Beatles (with generous helpings of the blues, ballet and Beethoven along the way) should know a good tune when we hear one.

Rather than be caught out as slugs of mutton slipping into their lamb suits, many people willingly arrest their development — or at the very least, deny themselves some fun — by going into a kind of suspended animation on their 39th birthday. And once they have convinced themselves that age is a series of barriers against change, it becomes far easier to succumb to other and greatly more significant dangers. How much simpler must it be for employers to tyrannise middle management, if the managers have already convinced themselves that age is a secret of psychological reincarnation. Whether you are the best thing or the worst nightmare your temporary employer has ever encountered, your contract will run its allocated span and then you're dead, only to be born again somewhere else, in another guise. It is a chancy life, but it concentrates the mind wonderfully.

This is itself, of course, a luxury that will not be so readily available to the miners, car builders and aerospace workers, who will also be finding themselves in what might most kindly be called a freelance role over the next few months. They, and the rest of Britain's three million unemployed, are facing crises which are anything but indulgent. They will have worse things to worry about than the imagined ravages of time, and my advice to them is that they ever find a moment to consider it — is to forget about midlife crisis altogether. We have nothing to lose but the fortieth birthday card industry.

had much to report in the way of midlife crises among 15-year-olds — Romeo and Juliet apart, that is. Nor did Charles Dickens seem to think that the forsythething blues were a vital element in the troubled lives of so many of his most famous creations.

The same goes for other cultures, even in our own time. Many African and Asian societies celebrate, and even ritualise, the coming of age, but make nothing of reaching 40. People with barely enough food and medicine to survive life, let alone cope with its changes, have more important things to fret about, and perhaps this is something they share with Shakespeare's children. Why worry about what life will do to you at 40 if living to find out is such an unlikely prospect?

All the evidence suggests that the midlife crisis, like psychoanalysis, poodle parades and diet plans, is one of those luxury items that only comparatively wealthy and under-worked societies can afford. Personal experience, however, leads me to hope that we might be about to witness its demise, although the price is hardly worth paying.

The reason I have avoided midlife crisis — so far, anyway — is that I was made redundant when my newspaper folded, just at the age when one is supposed to start worrying about such things. I have been a freelance journalist ever since and, like most self-employed people, the daily business of finding the next paying job has taken precedence over the minor matter of counting wrinkles.

Also, as someone who occasionally makes radio and television programmes, I have learnt the secret of psychological reincarnation. Whether you are the best thing or the worst nightmare your temporary employer has ever encountered, your contract will run its allocated span and then you're dead, only to be born again somewhere else, in another guise. It is a chancy life, but it concentrates the mind wonderfully.

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MY PERFECT WEEKEND
ROBERT PALMER
Musician



Where would you go?
To Venice, which is my favourite place because I go there through choice — not for work or any other reason. I've been all over the world: I was a Navy brat and started travelling at the age of three months, and my work has taken me everywhere.

How would you get there?
From Switzerland, where I live, I'd fly Crossair in a 12-seater plane. They don't designate seats — being a Swiss airline, they're classless.

Where would you stay?
At the Cipriani hotel, a luxurious villa set in gardens on an island outside Venice: it is reached by motor-boat. Since travelling is part of my job and I have celebrity status, I spend my life being feted and put up in first-class hotels, so it is wonderful to go to a great place off the beaten track, purely for my own pleasure.

What luxury would you take?
Money.

What piece of art would you like to have there?
Venice is a work of art.

Who would be your least welcome guest?
The devil. He's visited my room on occasion and it's difficult to get rid of him.

What newspapers or journals would you read?
The Herald Tribune, which I always read.

What three things would you leave behind?
My worries — all three of them!

What three things would you most like to do?
1. Lie in the sun and get inspiration for a hit song.
2. Make love.
3. After dinner at Harry's Bar I would take my perfect companion for a ride in a gondola. All the lights would be out and the only sound would be the oar slipping into the water.

Which books would you take to read?
There are Doors by Gene Wolfe, which I've read many times. Like a highly detailed daydream, the writing is enchanting. The other book I would take is *Ecco and Old Earth* by Jack Vance, which is about manners and humour.

Broadly, they are both science fiction books. I choose a book for the writer's skill, almost over and above the content: if I want a thriller or a good yarn, I prefer to see a film.

What music would you listen to?
Bette Midler, Nat King Cole and Joao Gilberto, a Brazilian guitarist and singer-songwriter.

Would you play any games or sport?
I'd swim in the pool when it got too hot.

What would you like to find when you go home?
A cheque in the mail.

Interview by Rosanna Greenestreet

• Robert Palmer will be performing tracks from his new album, *Ridin' High*, at the Royal Albert Hall on November 17 and 18.

071-481 1920

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

FAX 071-782 7828

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SATURDAY OCTOBER 31 1992

CHILDREN/AFTER DARK

7

Witch report on Hallowe'en



Going out tonight?
Perhaps it might be
safer if you take
some bread and
salt with you, says

Kay Marles

Hallowe'en: it might be the remnant of a pagan feast of the dead or the night when the spirits of the dead are allowed one last fling before winter sets in. Whatever you believe, the last pagan festival of the year is awash with superstitions and old customs.

As one of the biggest dates in the witchcraft calendar, it's a night of high activity for witches and warlocks, whether as spirits in the air or the children heading off to a ghostly party.

Anyone with the slightest belief in black magic does not venture out after dark on Hallowe'en. All journeys should be completed by sunset. But if you must travel there are certain items you can carry with you to ward off the malevolent spirits: for example, a piece of bread crossed with salt — "holy" bread was once treated with "witch-repellent" salt — is a safe pocketful for the traveller, as is a rowan cross, rowan being regarded as the best wood for protection against black magic.

In Ireland, the horror of evil spirits abroad is so strong that it is said that if you hear footsteps behind you, you should never look round, for it is one of the dead following you, and if you turn and see the spectre, you will soon join them.

But Hallowe'en is not just about bad things: it is about good too. Love lore is a vital part of the traditions. Mice are linked to apples and nuts, the benevolent, wholesome fruits of the earth said to have powers to fend off evil.

LOVE SUPERSTITIONS

This is what a girl should do if she wants to know the identity of her future Mr Right: stand in front of a mirror on Hallowe'en, eat an apple and the face of the man she is to marry will appear in the glass. It is also said that if an apple is peeled carefully without breaking the strip, and the peel is then thrown over the shoulder, it will take the form of the initial letter of the future mate.

Intrepid young women can creep into the garden at midnight and pluck 12 sage leaves. At this moment, the shadowy figure of the husband-to-be is said to approach from the other side of the garden. To determine their future, cou-



Party spirit: witches and warlocks may be abroad tonight, but in homes all over Britain children in Hallowe'en fancy dress will be having a frighteningly good time

MARY EVAN/STEVIE PURVIS



Postcard from the past: in Victorian times the message of Hallowe'en was ghoulishly the same

The festival is now just for children. Designs of anything from Ninja Turtles to the Battle of Hastings are scratched on to the surface of the hollowed-out pumpkins, and at 6.30pm the children

begin their lighted procession around the village.

In the most common Hallowe'en game, apples again feature as important symbols. In apple ducking, apples are floated in a large tub

of water, participants kneel in front of the tub with their hands tied behind their backs, and try to catch an apple with their teeth. The larger the apple, the greater the fortune they will one day amass. If

they cannot land one, they may well be doomed to poverty.

Trick or Treat, the most popular Hallowe'en game, has all the potential of evoking the angst witches and warlocks are capable of stirring up. Children, sometimes disguised as witches, demanding a Trick or Treat from house to house, seem to know no bounds for springing unpleasant surprises on those who will not play or pay up.

SONGS AND RHYMES

Hallowe'en, Hallowe'en,
Witches, witches can be seen.

Scotland has the best tradition of Hallowe'en songs and rhymes and these should be sung in a broad Scots accent:

Hey-ho for Hallowe'en!
All the witches to be seen.
Some black and some green.

Hey-ho for Hallowe'en!

This is Hallowe'en.
And the morn's Hallowe'en:
If you want a true love
It's time you were away.

Tally on the window-board.

Tally on the green.

Tally on the window-board.

The morn's Hallowe'en.

Hey on a cabbage stalk.

Hey on a bean.

Hey on a cabbage stalk.

The morn's Hallowe'en.

Events

LONDON

□ Hampton Court games: Family trails for a range of ages and abilities. *Hampton Court Palace, East Molesey, Surrey (081-977 8411). Today, tomorrow, 9.30am-4.30pm (last admission 3.45pm).*

□ Adventure aye: Be a sailor for the day under instruction from the ship's duty officer. Certificate and badge on completion of mission. Suitable for seven to 14-year-olds. *HMS Belfast, Morgan's Lane, Street, SE1. Today, 10am-4pm (last admission 3.45pm).*

□ Transport of delights: Hallowe'en trail around the museum with masks for all participants. *London Transport Museum, Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-222 5600). Today, tomorrow 10am-6pm, last admission 5.15pm, £3.20, child £1.60, family ticket £7.50.*

NATIONWIDE

□ Cleethorpes Conker Championships: Friendly contest for all ages plus fancy dress competition for under 16s. *The Nature House, Boating Lake, Cleethorpes. Today 3pm to dusk (0472 300220).*

□ Cambridge activity day: Entertainments with a Hallowe'en theme for six to ten-year-olds. *Cambridge and County Folk Museum, Castle Street, Cambridge (0223 355159). Today 2.30-5.45pm. Admission 80p. Booking advisable.*

□ Ironbridge on Hallowe'en Eve: Popular annual event at Blis Hill Victorian "town". All exhibits gaslit, iron works and foundry operating plus firework display. *The Ironbridge Corps Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire (0952 433522). Today open onwards. £4, child £2, family ticket £12.*

□ Maidstone discovery trail: The new Leeds Castle Education Pack of booklets and fact sheets is good fun but also relevant for five to 14-year-olds studying history and science, key stages 1-3 of the national curriculum. *Leeds Castle, Maidstone, Kent. Tel 0622 765400. Today tomorrow 11am-5pm. Pack £1.25, castle and grounds £6.20, child £1.20, family ticket £17.*

□ Nottingham Robin Hood Pageant: Continuous medieval entertainment in the castle grounds today and tomorrow. Tonight only, spectacular floodlit joust. *Nottingham, today, tomorrow 11am-9pm. £70, child under 12 free. Joust 7.5-8.15pm. Tickets must be booked. £3, child £1.50. Details and booking from Nottingham TIC Wheeler Gate (0602 470661).*

□ Shugborough Hallowe'en: Apples bobbing and other traditional diversions. Booking advised. *Shugborough, Millford, near Stafford (0889 581388). Tonight, 6-9pm. £3, child £2.*

□ Skipton Steam Up: Atmospheric night with rides on steam trains plus bonfire and firework display. *Skipton, North Yorkshire (0756 793727). Tonight. Trains from 5.30-9.30pm. All inclusive fares £3, child £1.50.*

□ Waltham Abbey Hallowe'en watch: Dress up in spooky costume and go to the farm barn for a night of scary stories and songs. Take a lantern (suitable for over-12s). *Meet at Hayes Farm Barn car park, Stubbin Hall Lane, off Hobfield Road, Waltham Abbey, Essex. Tonight 7.30pm. Booking advisable (0992 713838). £3, child £2.*

JUDY FROSHAUG

Reel venues

FOR details of Scottish country dance societies (SCDS) around the country ring 031-225 3854. For tutor books and tapes call the Scottish National Dance Company on 0734 666006.

LONDON

□ Marlborough School, Sloane Avenue, SW3 (Margaret Shaw, 081-568 8072). Beginners, Wed, 6.30-8pm.

□ Wandsworth town hall, SW18 (HARRY VERNON, 0962 771 666). Beginners, first Thurs of every month (Oct-May, 7.30pm).

□ Little Ship Club, Church House, Holy Trinity, Brompton, SW3 (Bridge Lorimer, 081-993 0157). Intermediate, approx every third Thurs, 7.30pm.

□ Morley College SCDS, Westminster Bridge Road, SE1 (MARIJAN JAMIESON, 081-442 1776). Thurs, 7.30pm.

□ Lansdowne Club, 9 Fitzmaurice Place, W1 (071-602 5189). Second and third Wed of every month.

NATIONWIDE

□ Chester, St Andrews Society, Calder Valley Centre, Great Boughton, Chester (Mrs Phillips, 0244 390609). Beginners, Thurs, 7.15pm.

□ Manchester, St Ninian's SCDS, St Werburgh's parish hall, Wilbraham Road, Chorlton (061-881 5934). Beginners, Wed, 7.30pm.

□ Coventry, Corridor SCDS, Stycheale Grange Church Centre (Mrs J. Wardrop, 0203 418487). General, Mon, 8-10pm.

□ Brighton, Southwick Community Centre (0273 584933). Mon, 8-10.30pm.

□ Newcastle SCDS, Fenham Hall Drive (0661 23805). First and third Tues every month, 7.30pm.

□ Newark SCDS, Congregational Church hall, Hatton Gardens (Mrs C. Saul, 0636 79635). Tues, 7.30-9.45pm.

Why reel men wear skirts and pumps

Take the floor
— the Scottish
country dance
season is here

It's that time of year again, when the haggis is lanced, bagpipes skirl and men in skirts twirl. All over Britain halls are heaving with the wheeze of the squeezebox and the patter of *pas de basques*.

The southern reels season kicked off a week ago with the annual Muckle Flugga ball in London, and many see next week's Reel Action at Hamersmith town hall, west London, as its highlight.

The word is that the real reel action is not in gilded ballrooms but in local colleges and halls, where increasing numbers of Sassenachs, from learners to bus drivers, are lacing up pumps for Scottish hops.

Davinia Miln, of the Little Ship Club, named after the pub in which it originally met but now meeting in Church House, Holy Trinity, Brompton, London SW3, dances six nights a week in different venues. Reeling, or more correctly Scottish country dancing, is a thoroughly social affair, in which each person dances with everyone in the set. "Where else do you have the chance to meet 200 men of an evening?" she asks. "Three marriages resulted last year from those who met at our club."

Having reeled through my teens, I have come to appreciate the thrill of the highland dance: it generates its own energy and excitement.

"Far from being embarrassed at partying with my family, I'd feel cheated if I hadn't danced with dad and my brothers," Ms Miln says. "And mild irritation is an integral part of reeling: men and women should keep good eye contact."

There are two categories of dancer: "soft-shoe" or "hard-

leap up and down flailing their arms in the air, not unlike stage banting for the attention of a doe — was a mating ritual. And when else, as in the Hamilton House reel, can a woman dance towards a man, smile coquettishly, cock a snook at him and turn to the adjacent male with a flourish — and get away with it? This reel is said to have originated from a young aristocrat teasing her lover, and then turning to her husband.

Over the years attempts to remain well-mannered have prevailed. In the 18th century, *Allan's Ballroom Guide* recommended dancers to "avoid vulgar practices... making a noise with your feet, spitting in the fire on the floor, or carpet... this will make others suppose that you have not been accustomed to polite society".

The hard-shoe brigade, known as "Hoors", are diehard ball-goers and make much noise in the process. Partial to punctuating each reel with "Yours" and "Hesuch!", they glide and shun across the dance floor. To the masters of *pas de basques*, this sloopy movement is known as the "county roll". The hard-shoe repertoire is limited to about eight or 12 dances.

A reels night at Wandsworth is "an essential part of the London scene", says a hard-shoe dancer. "There the emphasis is on having a good time, and if you're with your partner into orbit or slip over, nobody minds."

If Scottish country dancing is technically a "polite" form of dance, its origins are undeniably primitive. You could be excused for thinking that the foursome — in which men



Reeling: it generates energy, excitement, even marriage

full flight: feet seemed barely to touch the ground as about 60 dancers leapt, skipped and bounced, turning their partners with supreme control and elegance to a four-piece band. Partners teamed up regardless of age or gender. I spotted George, a young ex-morris dancer who had traded in his bells and pom-poms for a kilt and sporran, dancing with Peggy, a spirited 79-year-old, who told me: "When a man asks you to dance you go."

George later explained that the fun of the dance lay in the mental discipline of "getting it right". Dancing with a different partner every time seems to add to the challenge.

The last dance before the break was "MacDonald of the Isles", in three "please" time, that is, Handbooks were left

on chairs and babies in basins, as couples filed on to the floor in neat lines. The fiddle struck up and they were off. There were no wallflowers, save Peter Smith, an environmental health officer, who came over and found out why I wasn't dancing. I blushed, and told him I was a bit rusty. He admitted he had taken up Scottish country dancing to meet people and keep him young. He wrinkled and said: "I want to drop dead in my foursomes doing a reel."

I left the hall musing on the spectacle of Scots culture in exile. A highland ceilidh, with its whisky and sing-song, might be more spontaneous. But its more refined southern version is still a heady brew.

XIA YOUNGER



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It's small change to you, but it can make a big change to him.

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You'll receive regular progress reports and a photo of your sponsored child.

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□ £15 sponsor.

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Tending the family trees

Francesca Greenoak admires the Johnsons' 20-year devotion to their beautiful, eclectic Essex arboretum

Fine oaks, especially brilliant this autumn, grow well along the roadsides on the way to Hugh and Judy Johnson's mid-Essex arboretum. They bought the friendly, practical Elizabethan Saling Hall with its 12-acre grounds in 1970. Over centuries of cultivation there had been a succession of good gardens, and there was good design and shape under the scrub overgrowing the walled garden, moat, and ponds.

Mr Johnson is particularly keen on trees and he believes they thrive and look their best under the expansive East Anglian skies. His enthusiasm led him to study, travel and collect ten years; he wrote a best-selling introduction to trees. It is heartening to see how well established a tree landscape can be within 20 years. Most of the trees are from the Johnson era, offset by a few older ones: a huge English oak on the boundary, another in what has been made an oak glade, and some graceful metasequoias and swamp cypresses planted by the previous owner in 1959.

The Johnson taste is eclectic, with handsome conifers such as ponderosa pine, the nootka cypress, Scots pines, and broad-leaved trees and shrubs, especially oaks and maples, brought back from personal expeditions to Oregon and the Far East, or given to them by other plant-hunters. Mr Johnson grew from seed the incense cedar and great maple and two cinnamon barked maples (*Acer griseum*). The balsam poplar, with its richly resin-scented buds, is the species *Populus tremuloides* from a cutting.

Raising trees from cuttings is one of the most simple and satisfying propagating procedures, best done in autumn. Take a mature twig (about pencil-thickness) with the soft growth at the top of the stem trimmed away, insert it about two-thirds of its length into a furrow, lined at the base with free-draining sharp sand, then firm the soil down around it. With luck, it will root and be ready for transplanting the following autumn.

Over the years, the Johnsons

have learnt to plant their trees in a series of naturalistic groves. "Plant several and thin them later," Mr Johnson says. "Never put a tree out on its own in the open." A series of semi-formal gardens lies north of the old walled garden: a little pinetum and various groves lead to an open vista towards a temple, flanked by pollarded red-stemmed willows on one side and clumps of shrubs, such as the golden physocarpus and a bushy elaeagnus (*E. pungens*), which has wonderful satin undersides to the leaves and a sweet scent from its spring flowers.

I am almost as daft about trees as Mr and Mrs Johnson (hardly surprising, given my name), but I appreciate the difficulties of assembling an arboretum. Too many of them look artificial, but I loved the intimacy of Saling Hall, the sense of movement with formal and informal elements interacting, the integration of rare and familiar trees. There is fun, too: low-mounded box-trees in the Japanese garden, clipped to look like a flock of green sheep, a table-top parrotia, and a phillyrea (*P. latifolia*), pruned and trained to become the Johnson version of the blue-leaved olive of the Mediterranean.

• Mr and Mrs Johnson are opening the garden for Times readers next Monday from 2-5pm. Saling Hall is six miles northwest of Braintree, between Braintree and Dunmow; turn north off A120 at the Saling Oak. £1.50 child free.

BEST BUYS

Tender plants such as citrus trees and oleanders, brought indoors for the winter, need extra watering. Don't fuss with small watering cans: choose one with a sensible volume, long spout and support bar. Haws special green 3.4l (4 gal) metal conservatory can with an extra long spout is £39.95. A similar 2.25l (2 gal) size in plastic comes at £5.65.



Winter watering: a long spout and support bar make it easier



Autumn brilliance: Hugh Johnson integrates rare and familiar trees

WEEKEND TIPS

- Plant or move herbaceous perennials during mild periods, when the ground is neither frozen nor waterlogged.
- Remove the last of the bedding plants and compost them.
- Plant winter containers with dwarf conifers, ivies, winter pansies, and bulbs for next spring.
- Prepare ground and plant new hedges.
- Pile gravel around alpines to prevent them sitting in damp soil.

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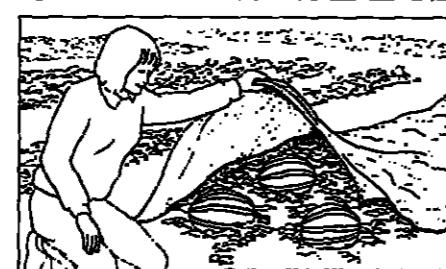
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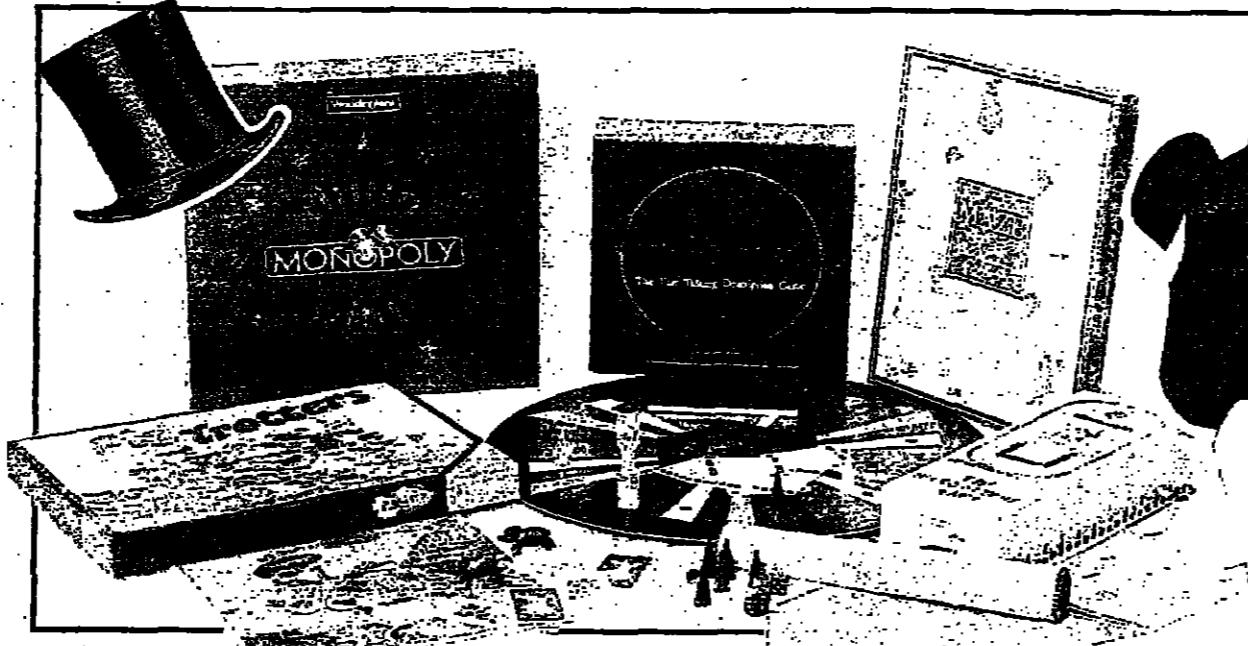
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Nicole Swengley unwraps this season's best board games, from good old Monopoly to Beauty and the Beast

Play up and play the games

BOARD games are hard to beat for inexpensive, stimulating and amusing entertainment. The traditional games like Monopoly (first produced in 1935), Cluedo and Scrabble are consistent strong sellers, but anyone looking for a fresh challenge will find plenty of entertaining new games in the shops this season (all the ones shown here are available nationwide at department stores and toy shops, or by mail order where indicated).

Matthew Hamlyn, the buyer of adult games for Harrods, says: "We pick games with snappy looking boxes and boards that clearly indicate the objective of the game and how to play it." He tips *Articulate* - "a very social game" - as the best seller this Christmas, while Paul Finnane of Harrods' toy department reports that this year parents are searching for more educational games to give the children.



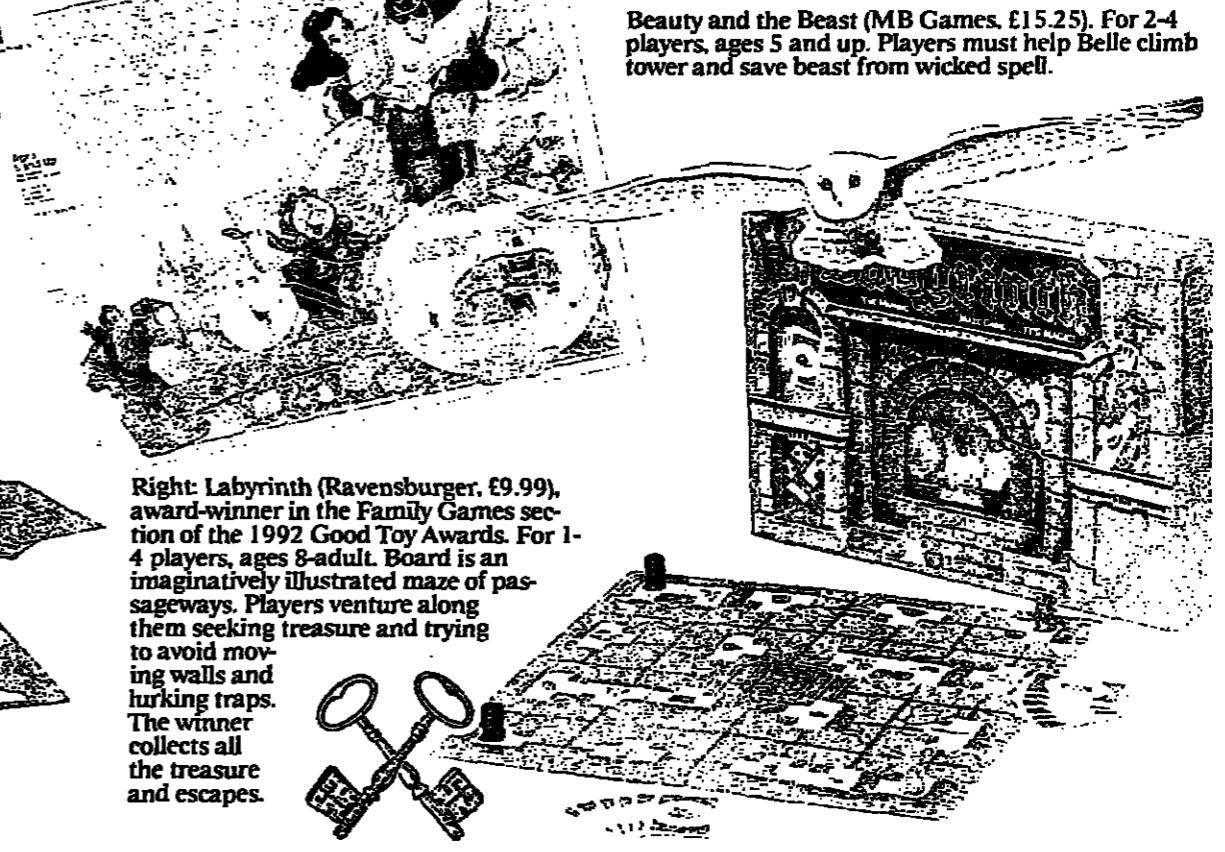
Back row above: Monopoly (Waddingtons, £24.99), Articulate (Drummond Park, £24.95) and Maze (Oxford Games, £13.99 plus £2 p&p by mail order from the Museum Store, 37 The Market, The Piazza, Covent Garden, London WC2).

Foreground above: Pig Trotters (Ravensburger, £7.99), a porky fun for 2-4 players, ages 6-11; The Hieroglyphs Game (Oxford Games, £9.95 plus £2 p&p by mail order from the Museum Store, address as above), like ancient Egyptian bingo for 2 or more players, ages 7-adult.

Alpha Animals Junior. Game by The Green Board Game Company, £11.95 (plus £2.50 p&p) by mail order from Neal Street East, 5-7 Neal Street, London 5-7 WC2. For 2-6 players or teams. Two levels of play so older and younger children can play together. Board illustrated with wildlife. Includes illustrated animal facts booklet.



Beauty and the Beast (MB Games, £15.25). For 4 players, ages 5 and up. Players must help Belle climb tower and save beast from wicked spell.



Right: Labyrinth (Ravensburger, £9.99), award-winner in the Family Games section of the 1992 Good Toy Awards. For 1-4 players, ages 8-adult. Board is an imaginatively illustrated maze of passageways. Players venture along them seeking treasure and trying to avoid moving walls and lurking traps. The winner collects all the treasure and escapes.

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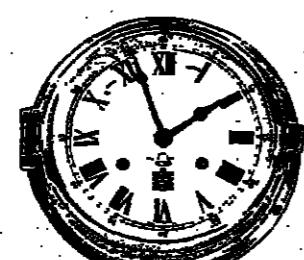
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WHAT TO WEAR

Active ingredients of one-stop dressing

Adaptable clothes you can wear any time, any place, anywhere — Tom Rhodes surveys cool outdoor dressers

This is a story of Henry and Caroline, of James and Lucinda and Edward and Alice. In short, it is a tale of skiing in Verbier and gardening in Fulham, of climbing in the Pyrenees and stalking in the Highlands, of walking in the Cotswolds and perhaps, just occasionally, of bobsledding in St Moritz.

Henry is a banker. Caroline a milliner. James imports tea while Lucinda sews nuptial gowns for the very rich. Edward, formerly the buyer for a fashion house, practises the art of French landscape in a Notting Hill garret. Alice works in corporate communications for a record company. These are not their real names but each of these characters does exist and each, so professionally disparate, has a common bond: a love for the great outdoors.

As winter fast approaches,



they, and their numerous country cousins, meet in each other's houses and flats, in their parents' homes in Hertford, Hereford and Hampshire, and in noisy hostels in central London, where they discuss plans for the next weekend, the fortnight's skiing and the new Italian shrubs that one has just acquired for

his small but perfectly designed garden in Chelsea. Later the conversation, inevitably, turns to clothes.

They would not consider themselves fashion victims and yet, as James, who is soon hoping to relive last year's triumph on the Cresta Run, makes clear: "I spend so much of my time outside, either for

REAL PEOPLE, REAL CLOTHES

Right: Catherine Buxton wears: polo neck, £24, Thomas Pink, 35 Dover Street, London W1 and branches; beige jodhpurs, £40, Marilyn Anselm in Hobbs, branches in London and nationwide; leather jacket, £549, Chevignon, from Graduate, 30 James Street, W1, Harrods, SW1; jumper, £39.99, Next, branches nationwide; coat with fake fur, £89.99, Next; boots, £135, Timberland, 72 New Bond Street, W1. Eric Diemegard wears (central): jumper, £135, Timberland (as above) and Harrods; jacket, £90, Boden (mail-order 071-608 3230); trousers, Blazer, £45, 33a King's Road, SW3. Rupert Swann wears (right): Tenson coat, £208, Harrods, as above; jeans, £34.99, Next Directory (0345 100500); waistcoat, £45, Boden, as above

Left: Eric wears scarf, £17, Racing Green (mail order 0789 200244); sweater, £40, Blazer, as above; trousers, Burberry, £89.50, 18-22 Haymarket, W1; coat, £265, Harrods, as above. Rupert (right) wears Timberland jacket, £250, as above; polo neck, Thomas Pink, as above; sweater, Blazer, as above

work, skiing or riding, that the clothes I wear are incredibly important."

Like his chums, James is not prepared to spend thousands on different uniforms for separate pursuits. A skiing anorak is as useful to him as he rides out with a morning string in Lambourne as it is off piste in Val d'Isère. Caroline mentions that she has just bought an all-in-one Day-glo suit for her skiing holiday in Aspen this year. A chorus of disapproval echoes around the pub.

"Much more practical to wear leggings and a waterproof jacket," Alice says. "Those suits just make you look like a poseur or a ski instructor."

The question of practicality and comfort, coupled with a wish to be a part of the active crowd, is fundamental to this ethos of dress. Hard-wearing trousers, colourful jerseys and "sensible" shoes should be as effective on the slopes as they are in the *demi-monde* of *après-ski*.

The last thing you need when going on holiday, or away for a weekend in the country, is to be weighed down by a bulging suitcase, filled with useless articles of clothing," Lucinda says. There are those who dismiss this brash approach. Exponents of ski extreme, serious climbers, riders — even some gardeners — believe that a necessary part of the activity is what you wear. "It would be quite impossible for me to ski some of the pistes that I do if I was wearing, for instance, an anorak and salopettes," says Jean-Claude Faudot, director of the Club des Sports in Val d'Isère.

For intrepid Britons, however, the sport is merely a means to an end. They have no wish to become professionals; it is a peculiarly British form of amateurism which has little to do with expertise, but everything to do with taking part.

While any self-respecting Parisian or Roman would wait at the prospect, the outdoor set is happy to stride along London's King's Road dressed as if for a slope, a mountain or a windswept moor. "I find it is easily the most comfortable casual wear," Henry says.

Nevertheless, this pragmatic approach is in no way boring. There are hundreds of permutations possible with the same, minimal wardrobe. Satisfied that they have given due consideration to their clothing, the six revert to the debate about where to go next. A weekend in Shropshire, a few days at a Scottish pile, or perhaps some early skiing on the glaciers of Zermatt? Whichever they choose, Henry, Caroline, James, Lucinda, Alice and Edward know they will be dressed for the part.



She wears: scarf, £17, and gloves, £5, Racing Green, as above; green polo neck, £24, Thomas Pink, as above; black ski pants, £79, Harrods, as above; I.K.S. ski jacket, £265, from Harrods

He wears: padded coat, £84.99, Next, as above; Killy Mountain ski top, £119, Harrods; yellow cords, £56, Boden, as above; polo neck, £24, Thomas Pink, as above; scarf, £17, Racing Green, as above

Photographs by John Hudson; styled by Victoria Pyman; hair, make-up by Keri Williams at Jay Goodman

De rigueur for the slopes

■ Choosing accoutrements for the slopes is a minefield for the fashion-conscious. Should it be Bolle or are Raybans still *de rigueur*? What colour sun-block should one wear, is a hat necessary?

■ This year, it seems all is rosy for practical types. Bloc sunglasses — the

cheaper British make — are expected to be in vogue. Coloured zinc gloss is out, invisible lip balm is in. Patterned hats are a must, and ideally should match the jersey.

■ As for music and reading, forget Ondarrie and Unsworth, REM and Prince. It has to be Sex and Erotica.



Robin Young finds Gothenburg relaxing, clean and well-ordered

Quietly stalking the stuffed elephant



Straight down the line: Gothenburg still has efficient trams plying its tree-lined avenues

Of all the continental ferry destinations served from Britain, Gothenburg has the biggest tourist attraction: the Liseberg pleasure park, which pulls in three million visitors a year. But fear not. From late September it is closed until April.

Gothenburg remains a glorious destination for a relaxing short break by sea, with a day and a night spent on board the ferry on both the outward and inward journeys, or by air, or by a time-saving sail-and-fly arrangement, leaving Harwich on Friday night and flying back on Sunday evening.

For sea passengers, there are leisurely opportunities aboard ship to catch up with eight films coming and going, or to eat oneself into a torpor from a smorgåsbord spread of more than 100 choices.

Gothenburg is a cosmopolitan effort. The solemn, honest Swedes are quick to tell you they could not have managed it alone. They had the Dutch to reclaim land and build canals, Scots to engineer the harbour and shipbuilders' yards, Norwegians to pioneer the fishing industry, Germans to administer the town council and trade, and English to open schools and hospitals.

Many of Gothenburg's businesses and institutions still carry British names. A sugar refiner called Carnegie founded the first brewery (now converted into a waterside Novotel), the Dicksons developed timber export, William Chalmers set up the technical

university, and a shipbuilder called Keiller bequeathed the town one of its hillside parks.

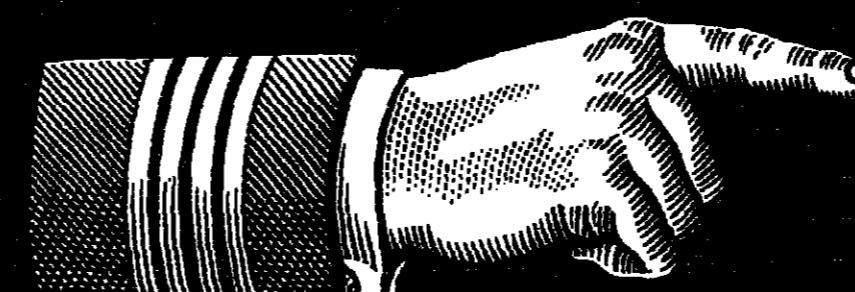
The Swedes call Gothenburg "little London", a 19th-century satirist having quipped: "When it rains in London, gentlemen in Gothenburg carry umbrellas". Yet Gothenburg is not like London at all. It is quiet, well-ordered and clean.

It still has trams plying the tree-lined avenues, and it is comfortable and pleasurable to explore on foot. The Key to Gothenburg card (available from tourist offices, hotels and Pressbyra kiosks) costs 100 Swedish kronor (about £11) for one day, 175 for two, and 225 for three, with reduced rates for children, and covers travel

on buses, trams, and car-parking, and entry to museums, parks, sports facilities and places of interest.

Much of Gothenburg's former glory is past but it still pulls in the tourists from Germany and Denmark and there is a 7am fish market at the fishing harbour on a weekday morning. The

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there are plenty of unusual attractions lurking around the corner

WEEKEND BREAK

along the quays at Lilla Hamn, beneath the newest skyscraper, are nautical collections of the Centrum, among them a stately four-mast, the and a fully armed navy frigate, the

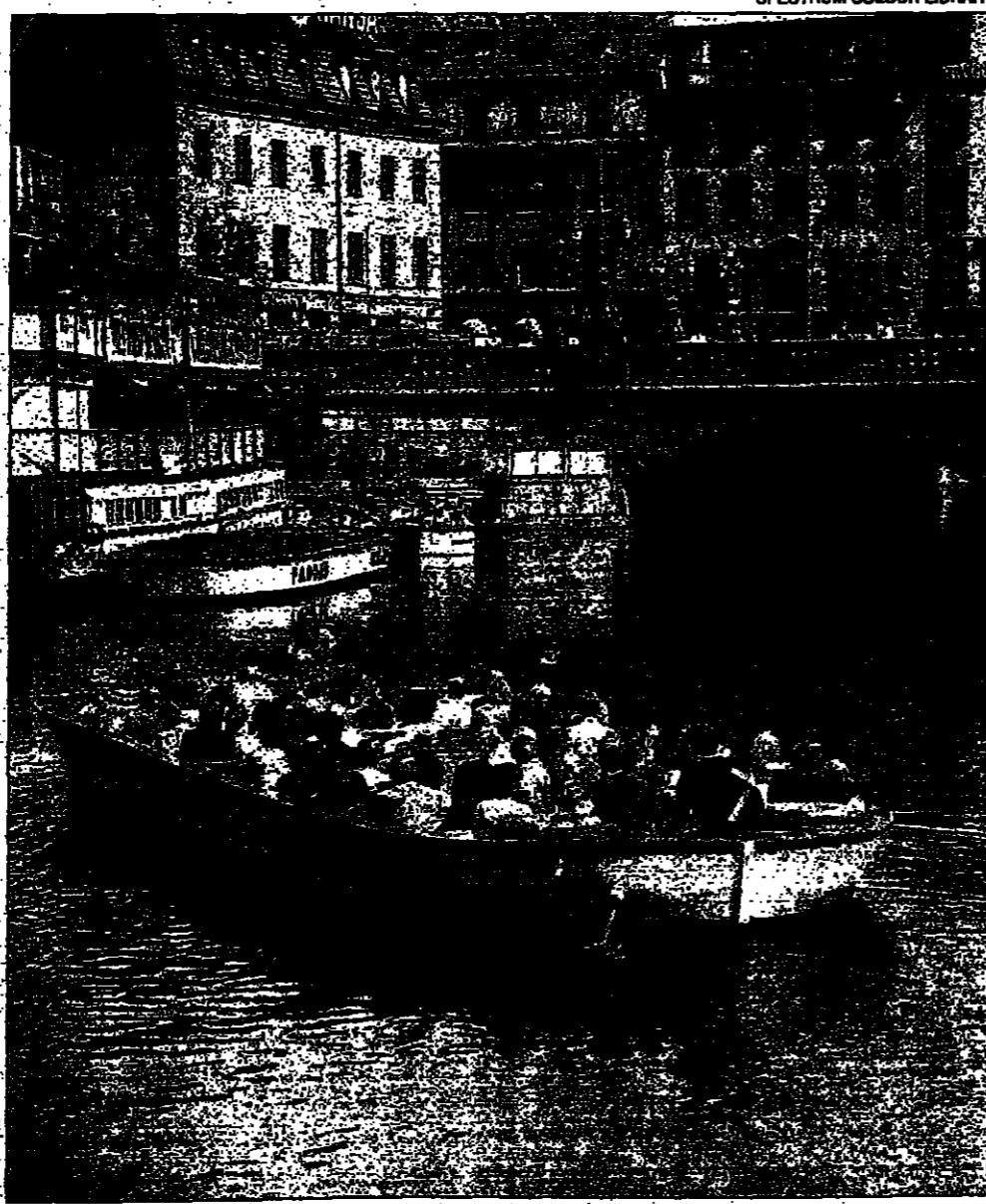
The Maritime Museum on Karl Johansgatan, a nautical knacker's yard, models, maritime flags, figureheads and sea celebrites. Gothenburg's East India trade, and when this port was Britain's in and from a dominated by Napo-

dignified canal-side building which the headquarters of the East India Company uses the archaeological, graphic and historical arts, while in the art in at least one painting, Oenius's *Drunkennes*, bald it might make you

out loud. The sombrely, the Natural Museum has the finest example of a African elephant, and a perfectly preserved blue beached in 1865 and packed together with of rivers. It is a touching, Swedish gesture that fled animal among the ads is set aside for children to stroke a top-sided lion takes with a punce and a wolf at the mouth.

Other museum of arts it is worth a detour for Chinese and Japanese antiquities, modern textiles and crystal, no more ghoulish will be to the modest medical museum to gawp at the extractors and similes to make the flesh

shopping is good, partly for Swedish crystal, herring, and hand-specially Bohuslän at Lärjevägen. There are excellent performances at the concert hall, opera house, Stora and the city's best include The Place, and where the chef, has made a name



Down by the riverside: tour boats offer a view of Gothenburg's historic maritime glory

for imaginative cookery. For authentic Swedish food in the traditional homey manner, try Weise on Drottninggatan. Sundays are for the parks and Gothenburg's are glorious. The largest, Slottsskogen, has countless joggers, wildfowl and seal pools, and aviaries. More centrally, the horticultural society gardens nurture 3,500 varieties of roses, which the methodical Swedes have arranged in order of historical development, and in their media: a Crystal Palace-like preserved 19th-century British export is filled with warmth and tropical and Mediterranean plants and flowers.

Andy Martin
solves the two-ski
problem by
chucking one out

It will come as no surprise to a lot of skiers that the word "ski" (meaning, in Finno-Ugric, "split wood") comes from the same Indo-European route as *schism* and *schizoid*. The main trouble with two skis is getting them to do the same thing at the same time. They are apt to have a split personality which can rip you apart. The elegant solution is to use just one ski: a snowboard.

A snowboard is to mountains what a surfboard is to waves. It is as much fun as you can have with your salopettes on. If you want to look cool, it is the indispensable accessory (the monoski is definitely out). These days the snowboard can be seen carving down the piste all over Europe and the States, but it really comes into its own off-piste, where it is the ultimate powder vehicle.

The same technique works in all conditions. The main difference is stance: you have one foot (left is "natural", right is "goofy") locked in front of the other, both lateral to the board. And you are always on the uphill edge. All you have to do is boogie about like a mambo dancer and you are there. The hips are the steering wheel, the upper body and legs follow.

It sounds like the perfect panacea for all your skiing problems. But there are one or two catches. For starters, you have to learn how. I was taught in Cauterets in the French Pyrenees. In the summer it is a spa town with therapy for arthritics and rheumatism; in winter it drums up business for later in the year by introducing people to snowboards. Lourdes is also conveniently placed nearby. Actually, I got off fairly lightly with only severe bruising and abrasions.

My old friend Ted Dearhurst was less lucky. After losing consistently on the pro-surfing tour for a decade, he was hoping to change his luck in the inaugural OP Winter-surf Pro where you catch waves at Huntington Beach in California and then drive up to Big Bear Mountain and slide

down another kind of face. "I hadn't really mastered the snowboard," he told me while lying in hospital with both legs in the air. "But I thought to myself, 'What the hell — it's only skiing, at least you can't drown.' Then I fell 600 feet."

The moral of the story is, don't try to run before you can walk. Which reminds me: you can't walk with a snowboard anyway. Not only can you not

go clambering up the mountain as you can do on skis, it's not exactly a piece of cake to get on a T-bar or a chairlift wearing one either. You have to learn to hop. And take snowshoes if you are travelling far off the beaten track.

What is harder on skis is easy on a snowboard, e.g. a 180-degree turn with one hand drawing lines in the snow; conversely what is easy on skis

is next to impossible on a snowboard, e.g. schunchning (you're bound to catch an edge) and traversing without losing height. Another drawback will strike you if (or when) you fall. Unlike skis, the snowboard does not snap off under pressure, so bits of your anatomy are apt to snap off instead.

The main risk attached to a sport this hip is that youth culture will muscle in and

Board facts

■ The British Snowboard Association (BSA) is running a beginners camp at Peisey Les Arcs in France from January 2-9 1993. The price for the week is £290 which includes travel, accommodation and food. Details from Geoff Parr (0792 466834).

■ For the more advanced the BSA is running an instructor's course in Kaprun, Austria, in conjunction with the Austrian Snowboard Association, in November. Contact Martin Drayton (0784 253201 days, 081-993 7911 evenings).

■ Martin Drayton is also available to give expert advice at Princes Snowboard Shop, Clockhouse Lane, Ashford, Middlesex (0784 253201, fax 0784 247169), which also offers rental and dry slope instruction. For equipment and tuition in Scotland: the Snowboard Academy, Aviemore, Grampian (0479 810336).

■ Board prices vary from £299 (the Kemper Intruder) to £509 (the Burton Brushie). "Free riding" boards cater for most needs on and off the piste. At opposite ends of the spectrum are "alpine" boards (narrow and stiff) for hard snow racing and "freestyle" and "half-pipe" (broader and more turned up at nose and tail) for radical manoeuvres. Lengths vary but 160cm is average. You can start with ski boots but you will eventually need the more flexible snowboard boots.

■ Chalet Snowboards offers a package with use of Burton boards and instruction by BSA members. For brochure write to Ian Trotter, 1 Aldworth Avenue, Wantage, Oxon, OX12 7EJ (0235 767182).

monopolise it. When I learnt my 12-year-old cousin from Australia, already fluent in the vocabulary of "ripping", "shredding" and "aerials", was always two steps ahead of me. But I've heard of the case of a man in his fifties who has sold his skis, devotes six weeks every season to snowboarding, and is trying to persuade his teenage daughters to skip school and join him.

Boogie on a snowboard



KENNETH REDDING

One man and his board: first essential is to find out if you are a "goofy" or a "natural"

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Up on the roof among the trees

A roof garden is a worthwhile home improvement, says Rachel Kelly — but don't bring the house down

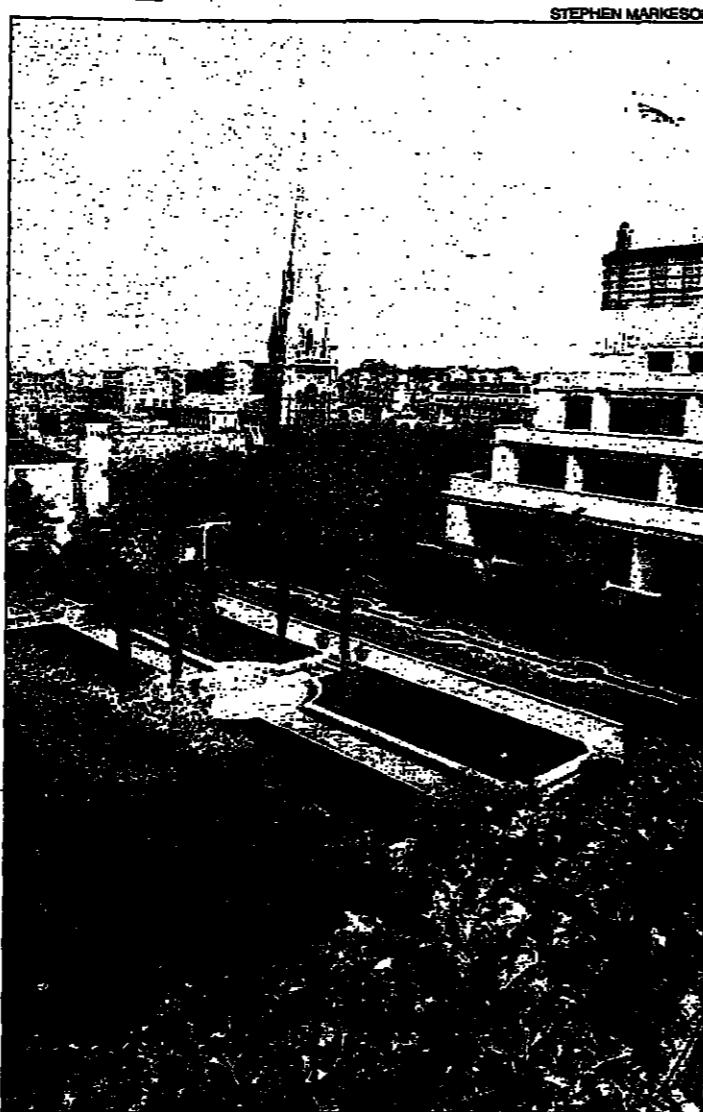
Roof-gardening circles tell the story, probably apocryphal, of how a member of the royal family built a roof garden at Kensington Palace. He asked the dozen of roof-gardeners, Ralph Hancock (who designed the Kensington Roof Gardens above what was once Derry and Toms), to design a mododendron garden. Mr Hancock warned that the chosen roof would not support the weight. The royal enthusiast said it would. It didn't, and the roof fell in.

Such a cautionary tale should be etched on the hearts of home-owners wishing to create their patch of Eden in the sky, ever improving their home as they fail to sell it. The Halifax building society reports that two in five customers have gone in for some form of home-improvement during the last year. "People are improving rather than moving because they can't face the hassle of selling," says Mark Hemingway from the Halifax. "In the past, people would improve with a view to moving on. Now they are improving with a view to staying put."

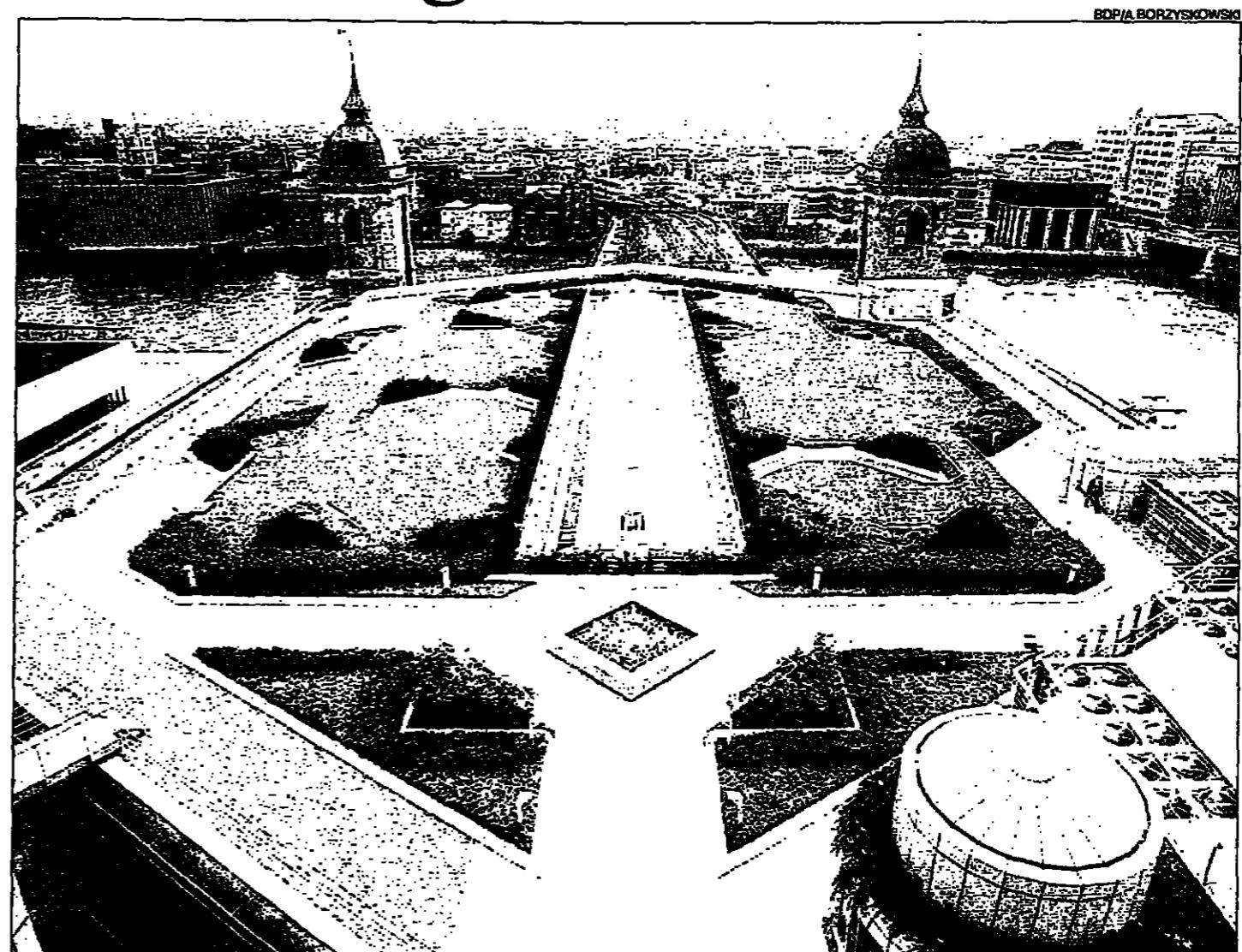
In the city, that could mean greening a patch of terrace or roof which would otherwise be dead space. The public's green-mindedness is hard to measure, but council planning departments that process such planning applications are a useful barometer. (If in doubt, apply for permission. Council inspectors or neighbours could otherwise report you.)

Michael Lowndes, a design and conservation officer from Westminster city council, has noted an increase in such applications. "I can't put exact numbers on it, but we are now getting fewer applications for major changes from developers and more for small-scale changes from families."

Like other metropolitan councils, Westminster has no specific policies on roof gardens but judges each application on its merits. While roof gardens can sometimes help commercial developers to push through planning permission for a new building, as the developers present the garden (such as that at Cannon Bridge) as an amenity for the community, domestic applications are more closely scrutinised. Conservationists are concerned



Heights of garden grandeur: two examples of the greening of London's roof-tops are, left, the Kensington Roof Gardens on the old Derry and Toms building and, right, the formality of Cannon Bridge



that the original roof form should be preserved, uncluttered, by trellises, railings and sheds. Neighbours should be protected from the prying eyes of budding gardeners, or the noisy antics of their friends partying up there among the geraniums.

The ideal domestic roof garden, as far as planners are concerned, is one that is discreetly incorporated into the original building or roof, invisible from the street. "This can be achieved by setting the roof garden back from the front of a mansard roof, for example," Mr Lowndes says.

Many will balk at such major structural changes. They will rather seek the simplest of roof gardens: a few pots on an existing terrace. Yet even then, drainage and the extra weight of such a garden can create technical problems.

First you must waterproof the roof, with either a double layer of bitumen, or a black rubberoid paint, says Clive McDonnell, an

associate with the landscape architects Derek Lovejoy Partnership, and expert in such matters. "But be careful not to create a giant tank of water. There must be drainage exits, and these can too easily be blocked by fallen leaves."

As for weight, the best tip is to place pots near structural walls or columns. "That's where the roof has most strength," says Mr McDonnell. "You could also put in new cross beams or a lightweight timber deck, supported by structural walls, to help take the weight by spreading it."

Choose dwarf plants and shrubs, and if you must have trees, pick miniature varieties of cherry, mountain ash or Judas trees to limit the weight. Self-sustaining plants and succulents similar to those in a rock garden, such as stonecrop or houseleek, which need little water, are suitable. Beware of climbers that could creep between roof tiles. Russian vines or clematis need to be watched.

The plant selection should also acknowledge the micro-climate created by the building, which could well be warmer or windier than at street-level.

Professionals give advice on weight loads reluctantly. The ideal, they stress, is to contact a surveyor, or even a structural engineer to work out what weight your roof can take. "Old buildings are infinitely variable," says Mr McDonnell.

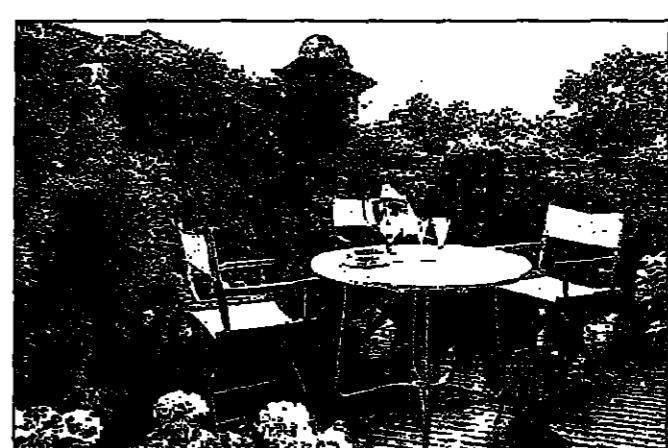
More ambitious roof gardens, which appear no different from their ground-level cousins, start with a waterproof base with a root barrier membrane, above which is a filter. The filter is usually 10cm in depth, made of leca, a light expanded clay aggregate. Above it is a layer of soil, about 40cm of lightweight compost (normal top-soil is about 30 per cent heavier).

Some man-made soils release their nutrients slowly and so inhibit excessive plant growth. Water from the soil drains through to the filter, thereby preventing water-logging in the soil which will kill plants as fast as drought. Within the filter are drainage points.

Such a garden is ambitious and would usually require the help of a landscape gardener or roof-garden specialist, such as Erisco-Bowler in Ipswich. Jacklyn Johnston, author of *Building Green*, to be published next year, estimates that it would cost £20 to £25 a square metre to create such a garden on your own, or £50 using a contractor. As techniques improve, costs should reduce.

It could be worth it. Martin Summer's garden in Chelsea, using trellises and tubs, is overflowing with autumnal colour — rhododendrons, camellias, azaleas and innumerable ivies asserting their presence as winter approaches, a source of infinite delight to him and his neighbours. And there is a further bonus — ecologists stress that a meadow on the roof will cut your fuel bills.

BUY YOUR OWN ROOF GARDEN



A three-bedroom flat in Ennismore Gardens, South Kensington, lies beneath this 15ft by 15ft roof terrace with garden shed, night lighting and electrically operated canopy — yours for £895,000 through Knight Frank & Rutley

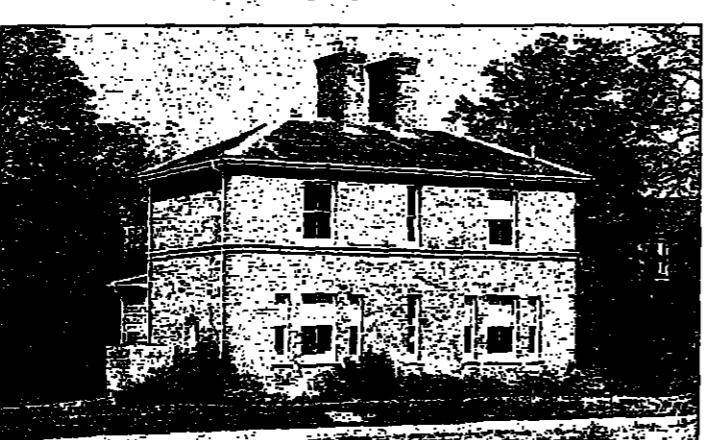
FOR SALE

about £120,000

Caroline Morse suggests woodland, wood fireplaces or wood screening



Forres, Scotland: Canton Villa, St Leonards Road. Victorian property backed by woodland. Four bedrooms, two bathrooms, four reception rooms (including sun lounge), wooden fireplaces. About £110,000 (G.A. Property Services Ltd, 0343 548861).



Nr Saxmundham, Suffolk: The Maltings Station House, Snape Bridge. 4 acre. with York stone fireplaces and pine screening. Three bedrooms, two reception rooms, study, pantry and cellar. About £125,000 (Bidwells, 0473 611644).



London: 7 Lancaster Cottages, Lancaster Place, SW1. Two-bedroom house with a detached garage. Reception room, kitchen and bathroom. About £125,000 (John D. Wood, 081 944 7172).

Nr Salisbury: Bankside, Stapleford, Wiltshire. Grade II listed detached cottage. Two bedrooms, bathroom, two reception rooms, kitchen. About £115,000 (contact Stratton & Parker, 0722 328741).

If you like to be beside the seaside

Situated in a peaceful village, about 30 minutes from the ferry port of Cherbourg in the Cotentin peninsula, this attractive stone farmhouse (right), which has been fully restored, is for sale at FFr795,000 (£97,500) including agency and notary fees.

It has an oak-beamed living-room with open stone fireplace, a large fitted kitchen, three bedrooms and two bathrooms, plus a large attic suitable for conversion, and a lovely garden with garage and substantial outbuildings. The UK agent is Normandy & Brittany Cottages, 62 Chesson Road, London W14 9QU (071-381 4433).

The rugged Cotentin peninsula, northwest of Paris, is cheap and good value, and the area is popular with British yachtsmen. Travel northwest from Cherbourg to La Hague, the northern tip of the peninsula, and you will find a land



THE COTENTIN PENINSULA

of gorse-covered hills and dramatic cliffs, scattered with picturesque fishing harbours and fine, sandy beaches.

Coastal prices start at FFr140,000, which buys a one-bedroom seafront apartment in the small, unpretentious seaside resort of Barneville Carteret, about 35 minutes from Cherbourg. A two-bedroom house in a new beach-front development in the resort is priced at about FFr272,000.



Picturesque village: this large restored farmhouse is FFr795,000

A few miles inland you can buy a shabby, but habitable, two-bedroom room cottage with a garden for as little as FFr195,000. Nearby a beautiful ten-room presbytery, ne-

glected and in need of modernisation, is for sale at FFr380,000, including all fees.

CHERYL TAYLOR

The front door of Bramcote is an amazing sight. Only the pediment is visible; the door steps and railings are entirely shrouded in creeper. All around, elders and saplings have taken root, and in a few more years the whole house could disappear in a huge, self-sown thicket.

Three miles from Polesworth in Warwickshire, it stands in spectacular isolation on an eminence in the midst of rolling cornfields, where the few surviving hedge-banks are entirely bare. Not a tree is to be seen except for an isolated clump on another hilltop 300 yards in front of the house, seemingly a relic of a long-vanished park.

Immediately beside Bramcote is the obvious cause of its demise (but laudatory of its survival, too): three very large corrugated barns, all part of a working farm. And only a few hundred yards beyond is the M42 linking Birmingham with the northern stretch of the M1.

Yet the view to and from the house has genuine grandeur, and a belt of trees would soon shut out much of the noise of the motorway traffic, which is a hoot more than a roar.

The farm manager, who lives in the new house immediately behind, lived in the hall when he first came to work here. "But it was run down even then. It was let for nearly 150 years before, and that's never good for a house," he says.

Bramcote's appeal architecturally lies in its powerfully swept



Watch this house: in a few years it could disappear in the thicket

up gables. It is one of a fascinating group of early 18th-century provincial baroque manor houses with pronounced gables covering the whole main front, in contrast to the more usual central pediment. Others are Hellaby Hall in Yorkshire and Swanton in Kent, both of which have been derelict in recent years.

They are boldly curvilinear sil-

houettes and have a decidedly continental flavour, more Dutch or German than English, as if they were the work of some Hanoverian bricklayer. Bramcote also takes character from the numerous close-set windows with arched heads — nine across the main front, though some appear to have been blind from the start.

Although the roof is steadily

collapsing, North Warwickshire district council will not take action. "We are a rate-capped authority and the members are unlikely to serve a repairs notice on any listed building," one official said.

Decay, fortunately, has been relatively slow, although over the past ten years most of the main cornice has fallen away.

The owners served notice of impending demolition on the council but took no action, and in March 1981 the hall was listed Grade II. A subsequent application to demolish was never determined because the council took the view that the environment department would never agree to demolition.

"After advertising the property," the agents say, "we have grown weary of showing it to people who recoil at the closeness of the farm buildings. We suggested to the planners they might allow some building at the edge of nearby Warton village in return for moving the farm and restoring the house. No luck."

The owners are James Gilmour and Co of Sutton Coldfield, who farm 2,000 acres here. The house is not being actively marketed but the agents are Shakespeare, McTurk and Graham of Leicester (0533 547998), who say they would need to consider "price and purpose" from any potential buyer.

MARCUS BINNEY

America's killing fields

Benedict Nightingale
celebrates a sardonic evening of bangs and whimperers at the Donmar Warehouse

Stephen Sondheim's latest musical got some unenthusiastic reviews from the American critics last year, perhaps because it opened during the Gulf War. It was a time when George Bush walked tall, and even hardened New Yorkers felt uneasy about the show's subject: the potting of presidents. But Sam Mendes's confident production confirms the minority view that *Assassins* is one of Sondheim's more fascinating exercises in the offbeat. A sardonic celebration of destructive losers, it certainly launches the re-jigged, remodelled Donmar Warehouse, in London, with an audacious blend of bang and whimper.

A motley phalanx of oddballs gathers with its guns at a fairground booth offering prizes to those hitting the targets on the breasts of Lincoln silhouettes. The bouncing madman in the frock-coat is Guiteau, who killed Garfield for not making him ambassador to France, and the glazed wimp in glasses is Hinckley, who winged Reagan in order to impress Jodie Foster. By the time the action switches to the barn where John Wilkes Booth is justifying his pioneering murder to posterity, we have met most of his descendants: from Cagolos, the obsessed radical who shot



Apart from that, Mrs Lincoln, how did you enjoy the play? David Firth as a plotting John Wilkes Booth in *Assassins*

McKinley, to Squeaky Fromme, the Manson groupie who stalked Gerald Ford.

David Firth's lonly, sanguine Booth reappears often afterwards, somewhat uneasily transmuted into a sinister linkman. He whispers encouragement to hesitant killers and, in perhaps the show's weakest scene, persuades Garth Snook's despairing Oswald, who means only to commit suicide, to become 'the big one, the one that's going to sum it all up'. He even turns the curtain rods Lee Harvey has eccentrically brought to the book depository into a hunting rifle.

There are other times when one can see the American reviewers' collective point

John Weidman's book is structurally slapdash, coming as it does in disconnected vignettes, and can be awkward when it does what history disallows but drama demands: introduce assassin to assassin. Again, one has to read the programme to make some helpful discoveries, such as the background of another of Ford's mortal enemies, Louise Gold's scatty Sara Jane Moore. And is there really a connection between Booth, who sees himself as Brutus, and Clark Hinds's barking-mad Byck, who is still wearing his grimy Santa outfit when he goes to hijack the 747 he plans to crash into Nixon's White House.

Yet the show's originality,

bite and drive should silence most doubts. The songs vary from parody ballads to spoof Broadway schmaltz in praise of guns, and include some of Sondheim's most incisive lyrics and bold musical effects. Smug tourists melodiously celebrate F.D.R.'s escape from death while Paul Harrington's Zangara, a failure at assassination as at everything else, sits in the electric chair balefully growling 'You think I care? I no care'. Henry Goodman's manic Guiteau scampers up and down the gallows steps while a balladeer invites him to look on the bright side and remember he'll be remembered. Strongest of all is an inverted national anthem, a jeremiad for America's no-

hopers that boils with frustration and rancorous bewilderment: 'Where's my prize? I want my prize.' Here at least Sondheim coheres his mini-nightmares into one big bad dream. Their precise motives may differ, but a kind of vindictive disappointment disfigures all these people. They are in what everybody tells them is the American Eden, yet all they are offered is dead-sea fruit. How can they both take revenge on God and assert their own significance? Why, by an exemplary assassination. By the end of the evening what seems surprising is not that some Americans have killed their presidents, but that so many have omitted to do so.

Old heavy hands is back, as Dave Brubeck lingers among his souvenirs

Memories of a god grown old

JAZZ RECORDS

The days when every hipster about town would rush to the shops to buy the latest Dave Brubeck offering are long gone. There has not been much to celebrate, in fact, since the reunion album with his alter ego, the late Paul Desmond, a decade and a half ago.

He has remained active, occasionally experimenting with orchestral compositions and playing the greatest hits at concerts, with the clarinettist Bill Smith doing his best to fill Desmond's shoes.

As he approaches his 72nd birthday, Brubeck strikes a valedictory note on *Once When I Was Very Young*

to the fore, remains the same as ever. But that limitation has always mattered much less than his skill in delivering fully developed compositions rather than tunes which are a vehicle for a string of unrelated solos.

His allusions to classical music meet with mixed results.

The reading of 'Yesterdays' is a deft, un-showy piece of footwork, with baroque counterpoint and hints of Chopin giving way to a brisk excursion into stride piano.

But the title theme, adorned with coyly lyrics by Brubeck's son Michael, by

lapses under the weight of a full-blown choral setting.

The retrospective mood continues on *Caribbean Circle* (Chesky JD80), Monty Alexander's celebration of his Jamaican childhood. The pianist recently performed this mixture of suave bop, jaunty reggae and traditional folk

songs at Ronnie Scott's.

Live, the concoction worked superbly. Some of the excitement is lost in the studio, however, and the presence of guest soloists such as Jon Faddis and Slide Hampton distracts attention from Alexander's nimble playing.

CLIVE DAVIS

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Luciano Pavarotti: waiting to sing his favourite arias for you in Germany

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An opportunity many people dream about

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Flavour of the month, or rock of ages?

Bon Jovi's mixture as before, but Neil is forever Young

ROCK RECORDS

Although it is getting on for four years since Bon Jovi last released an album — the ten million-selling *New Jersey* — there is no sign of the band's musical physique running to flab.

They do not make weak albums — the adjective is not in their vocabulary. However, rather like a weightlifter stuffed full of steroids, there is an unusually pumped and primed quality to the songs on their latest collection, *Keep The Faith* (Jumbo/Mercury 514 197-2).

The sound is huge. From the bubblegum rock of 'I'll Sleep When I'm Dead' in the overwrought ballad 'Bed Of Roses', the guitar chords and cannon-shot drum sounds roll and ripple like thunder in the hills. 'In These Arms' finds singer Jon Bon Jovi appropriating some of Bond's deep-voiced mannerisms and spicing them to the kind of killer chorus that has become Bryan Adams's trademark.

But apart from the title song, with its twichy dance-track drum rhythm, *Keep The Faith* conforms too rigidly to a

melodic heavy-rock formula that is due an overhail.

The lyrics are especially threadbare, with 'Dry Country', a song decrying the plight of recession-torn America, providing a virtual compendium of rock 'n' roll clichés: 'nothing good comes easy', 'no one's getting out of here alive', and so on.

While other major-league bands such as U2 and INXS have taken a more thoughtful tack in the 1990s, Bon Jovi have stuck with the classic heavy-rock production values of the 1980s: a big, brash sound which now seems to have all the flavour of processed cheese.

Perhaps modern studio technology is to blame — all that sophisticated gadgetry abrusing the music into perfect shape while erasing the personality of the musicians.

If so, it is not alone which has betrayed that crusty old maverick Neil Young, who

new album *Harvest Moon* (Reprise 9362-45057-2) is even more conspicuously at odds with contemporary tastes in sound quality than usual.

In keeping with the vogue for belated 'sequel' albums, Young has crafted *Harvest Moon* as what is being termed a 'natural successor' to his chart-topping 1972 album *Harvest*, even rounding up the same musicians (the Stray Gators) for a second bite at the cherry.

In sharp contrast to his recent work, *Harvest Moon* was recorded at very low volume. The album has a delicate country feel and resonates to the lachrymose strains of pedal steel, harmonica and the perfect harmony vocals of Linda Ronstadt and James Taylor.

There are no songs on this set to rival the celebrated 'Heart Of Gold' or 'Alabama' from *Harvest*, but the gentle spirit of that golden age is faithfully evoked, especially on the brooding 'War Of Man'.

DAVID SINCLAIR



Art of gold: Neil Young looks back two decades with his new album *Harvest Moon*

Romantically inclined

From Barber to Gershwin, Decca's latest batch is a rare package of the esoteric, exotic and exciting

CLASSICAL RECORDS

While one hand of Decca has been conducting the celebration of Sir Georg Solti's 80th birthday by conjuring a flurry of issues and reissues, another has continued to beckon those for whom starry names matter less than the sheer intrigue and variety of music.

Among four recent releases by Argos of American music is Samuel Barber's orchestral music (Decca Argos 436 282-2), played by the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra under David Zinman's direction. The major work is his First Symphony, which has also been recorded by two other companies recently.

Zinman's account is a worthy and solid one, although Slatkin does better for RCA. This recording nevertheless contains one lovely discovery for me, the *Music For A Scene* from *Shelley*, Op. 7 (1933).

Such music dispels the myth of Barber as a mere tune-and-accompaniment man. The colours approach a Debussyian clarity and subtlety, and the work is far more involving than either the two *Essays* (1937 and 1942) or the brilliant *Overture To "The School For Scandal"* (1931).

A disc devoted to two works

of Aaron Jay Kernis (Decca Argos 436 282-2), a Philadelphian born in 1960, reveals no such solidness. Kernis suffers from the confused eclecticism common to many American composers. He attempts large-scale forms with impressive confidence but acknowledges too many debts: to the minimalists, to Jerry Lee Lewis and to many a late Romantic (Barber and Copland) as much as Wagner.

The Symphony in Waves has it all: it is difficult not to be overwhelmed by some things in the symphony, like the massive eruption which disrupts the long, still slow movement. But Kernis is unsure of what his central premise is, beyond that of working on an epic scale, and his finale, rather than crowning the piece or uniting the potentially momentous forces at work in the first movement, ends it with a

which are included as fillers.

The symphony itself, of course, needs no special pleading. Its ambitious single movement proves Barber's structural soundness as well as his gift for exploring the potential of his ideas, albeit in a conventionally Teutonic-cum-classical manner.

A disc devoted to two works

furnished of utterly superficial brilliance — a lightweight, if rhythmically tricky dance.

Gerard Schwarz and the New York Chamber Ensemble's reading of the 32nd *Symphony* is a magnificent performance.

The other work here, a string quartet subtitled 'musica celesti', is likewise a stylistic hotch-potch, and understandably the Lark Quartet, although they play well enough, cannot hide the lack of solid musical thought. But Kernis is young and enjoys a fluent technique; he may yet say important things.

Two recital discs each combine pleasure-giving with informativeness. The soprano Cynthia Hayman's recordings with the pianist Warren Jones (Decca Argos 436 117-2) is a touch spoilt by lack of documentation about the composers, most of whom can be placed in the category of 20th-

which are included as fillers.

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BBC1

7.25 News and weather (734027)
7.30 Spider. Musical cartoon (t) (s) (4635073) **7.35 Animal World** narrated by Derek Griffiths (s) (5548431) **7.45 Quick Draw McGraw**. Animated fun (t) (4635028) **7.50 Litt'l Bits**. Cartoon antics with the forest pixies (t) (3724659) **8.15 Chucklevision** (s) (7308677) **8.30 Bucky O'Hare**. Cartoon space-age adventures with the floppy-eared super-hero (t) (8406783)
9.00 Going Live. Sarah Greene and Phillip Schofield are joined by Frank Brum and Tony Slattery; and Michael McNally meets Elton John in New York (s) (6452012) **12.20 Weather** (4817611)
12.15 Grandstand presented by Steve Rider. The line-up includes (subject to alteration): **12.20 Football**: Bob Wilson and Gary Lineker review the week's action; **12.50 News**: 12.55, 1.25 and 1.55 Racing from Wetherby; Wensleydale Juvenile Hurdle (1.00), Tote West Yorkshire Hurdle (1.30), Tetley Bitter Charlie Hall Chase (2.00); **1.10**, **1.40** and **4.20 Motor Sport**. Formula Ford Festival from Brands Hatch; **2.10 Boxing**. Midweek action from bills at London's Albert Hall and in Leeds; **2.30 Rugby Union**: live coverage of the match between Ireland and Australia from Lansdowne Road, Dublin; **4.40 Final Score** (12708303)
5.05 News with Chris Lowe. **5.15 Regional news** and sport (8910526); Wales (unit 5.50); Wales on Saturday
5.20 Dad's Army. Vintage Home Guard comedy, starring Arthur Lowe and John Le Mesurier (t) (Ceefax) (7091211)
5.50 Big Break. Tony Knowles, Stacey Hilliard and 16-year-old Ron O'Sullivan join Jim Davidson and John Virgo for another round of the snooker game show. (Ceefax) (s) (310948)
6.20 Noel's House Party. John Virgo, Frances de la Tour, Right Said Fred, Julia McKenzie and Mike Gatting, all of whom should know better, join Noel Edmonds for more resolute fun in Crinkley Bottom (s) (837122)
7.15 Bruce Forsyth's Generation Game. Four more couples compete for the prizes on the conveyor belt. (Ceefax) (s) (200306)
8.15 Casualty. Tough medical drama set in the accident and emergency department of a city hospital. Ruth reveals to Dulin that she has been raped by her former husband; and Simon Eastman wants Kate Miller out of his department after she ignores orders to stop hiring agency nurses. (Ceefax) (s) (206219)
9.05 News and sport with Michael Buerk. (Ceefax) Weather (799073)



The ghostbusters: Greene, Parkinson and Smith (9.25pm)

9.25 Ghostwatch
● CHOICE. This Hallowe'en night drama from the Screen One stable was not ready in time for previewing but the idea looks intriguing enough to give the show a try. The starting point of Stephen Volk's scenario is that ghosts no longer inhabit stately homes and rattle chains but live in council houses in London suburbs. We are, to be precise, in Northolt where the Early family, comprising mum and two children, is being disorientated by objects flying around rooms, the appearance of mysterious puddles and visits from a dark stranger. The Earlys call in a parapsychologist and she, in turn, summons help from the technology of television with cameras set up to record every ghostly move. Michael Parkinson, Sarah Greene, Mike Smith and Craig Charles are cast more or less as themselves and it sounds a heap of fun. (Ceefax) (s) (9630212)
11.00 Match of the Day. David Davies introduces highlights of two of today's Premier League matches. The commentators are Barry Davies and Tony Gubba (673344)
12.05am Film: Author! Author! (1982) Thin and dated comedy starring Al Pacino as a playwright whose wife leaves him and their five children just as his latest play is due to open, directed by an incompetent and with no leading lady. With Dyan Cannon and Tuesday Weld. Directed by Arthur Hiller. (Ceefax) (900334)
1.15am Film: Blues 45 (737712) 12.00 Pages. Iron Skinned

BBC2

6.00 Open University
9.05 Film: A Champ at Oxford (1940, b/w). Laurel and Hardy comedy directed by Alfred Goulding (2427677)
10.05 Film: The Gazelle (1959, b/w) starring Glenn Ford as a writer who decides to murder a blackmailed. Directed by George Marshall (2587527)
11.45 So You Want to Play Golf? With Peter Alliss (s) (273967)
12.15 Film: Highly Dangerous (1950, b/w). Thriller starring Margaret Lockwood as a biologist in Eastern Europe looking for insects being bred for germ warfare. Directed by Roy Baker (2097832) **1.40 Animation News**. **The Cat Came Back** (t) (5583305)
1.50 Network East. Reporter Anu Giri takes off in Britain's largest hot air balloon (s) (53985493)
2.20 Tamizhayan. Episode two of the Pakistan drama (2242783)
3.00 Cry of the Mountain. Island of the bird in the spring (5344)
3.30 Film: Nitochka (1938, b/w). Greta Garbo's penultimate film in which communism and capitalism meet in Paris as Soviet commissar Garbo falls in love with Mlyn Douglis. Directed by Ernst Lubitsch (2822838)
5.20 Scrutiny. News from the House of Commons Select Committee. (Ceefax) (8989123); Wales: Wales in Westminster
5.50 Political Memoirs. Nigel Lawson. Lord Lawson looks back over his years as Chancellor of the Exchequer (475306)
6.35 News and sport with Chris Lowe. Weather (665073)
6.50 Pole to Pole. Michael Palin's odyssey (t) (Ceefax) (524306)



Journey of the spirit: the composer John Tavener (7.40pm)

7.40 Music On: Glimpses Of Paradise.

● CHOICE: A film about John Tavener takes the form of a spiritual journey, conducted almost entirely by the composer himself. It is not a conventional autobiography. Those wishing to know about Tavener's early years or what drew him to music must look elsewhere. He dismisses his marriage in a sentence. What we do get are accounts of his conversion to the Eastern Orthodox Church, the stroke that left him paralysed and the heart condition that brought him close to death and specially staged extracts from his work, from the 1979 opera *Thérèse* to one of his latest pieces, *May of Egypt*. The finale, which may say much about the man, consists of Tavener and friends grouped round the piano for a rendering of the popular standard 'Let's Do It'. It is hard to imagine anything more arid and precious. (s) (561122)

8.35 Have I Got News for You (t) (s) (642290)**9.05 Testament of Youth**. The final episode of the television adaptation of Vera Brittain's book. Vera returns to Oxford (t) (723257)**10.00 Inside Story: The Nightbird**. Trenchant documentary about civil rights leader Medgar Evers who was murdered in Mississippi in 1963 (t) (8764)**11.00-7.30 The Vault of Horror: What's Behind the Door, Mummy?** hosted by Dr Walupus (141122)**11.20 Tales From EC**. A look at the 1950s horror comic (211526)**11.25 Film: Creepshow** (1981). Film version of Stephen King's tribute to horror comics. Directed by George Romero (483412)**1.25am The Art of Illusion** with American make-up and special effects artist Tom Savini (7232081)**1.30 The Unholy Trinity**. A discussion on horror's leading men — Pinhead, Jason and Freddie (4775197)**1.40 Film: Curse of the Werewolf** (1961). The newly restored and previously unseen complete version of Hammer's horror story starring Oliver Reed. Directed by Terence Fisher (4362130)**3.10 Prime**. Director Sam Raimi and actor Bruce Campbell talk about their gruesome film *The Evil Dead* (82824053)**3.15 Terror on the Page** (26280664)**3.20 Film: The Bride of Frankenstein** (1935, b/w). The classic horror tale starring Boris Karloff and Elsa Lanchester. Directed by James Whale. (Ceefax) (5225626)**4.30 The Horror of Sex**. Women's role in horror (90101710) **4.35 Dario's Friends**. Dario Argento at work on his new film *Trauma* (50979517)**4.45 Film: Death Line** (1972). A gruesome solution to overcrowding on the London Underground. Directed by Gary Sherman (8157994)**5.10 Film: Abbott and Costello meet Frankenstein** (1948, b/w). Spoof horror directed by Charles T. Barton. Ends at 7.25**5.20 News** and sport with Michael Buerk. (Ceefax) Weather (799073)

SATELLITE
SKY ONE
● Via the Astra and Mancopolis satellites
8.00 News (8910526) **8.30 News** (8910526) **8.45 News** (8910526) **9.00 News** (8910526) **9.30 News** (8910526) **10.00 News** (8910526) **11.00 News** (8910526) **11.30 The Real World** (8910526) **12.00 Fashion TV** (893413) **1.30 Hollyoaks** (8910526) **2.00 The New Addams Family** (55073) **2.30 4's At The Top** (2528) **3.00 Caravans** (1979) **3.30 The Duke of Alcazar** (1985) **4.00 WPTV Sports News** (8910526) **4.00 Knights and Witches** (8910526) **7.00 UK Top 40** (21851) **8.00 Unsolved Mysteries** (17899) **9.00 Cops** (1) **9.30 Cops** (1) **10.00 Saturday Night Live** (20122) **1.15 The Love Blues** (45577) **12.00 Pages**. Iron Skinned

SKY NEWS
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Travel by proxy, a global view

Joe Joseph watches Michael Palin and Alan Whicker on their travels, and wonders whether it's better to stay home



NOW that airports are so crowded, and travelling has become almost as adventurous as shopping at Sainsbury's, what a relief that we can get other people to do our travelling for us while we stay at home and keep track of them on the telly, using the time we have saved to do something more intellectually profitable, such as reading about celebrities we'd never otherwise hear of in *Hello!*

If it is better to travel than to arrive, it is better still to have some pretty compelling reason for going through all the bother of packing your bags and getting your bottom jammed full of inoculations in ten and a half chapters, more like ten and a half minutes.

Travel doesn't necessarily broaden the mind: often it just gives me-minded people more persuasive reasons to take a dislike to foreigners. Nor does it furnish exotic literary settings that are automatically more suitable than home-grown ones might be. OK, Hemingway couldn't have written *For Whom the Bell Tolls* had he hung around wrestling alligators in Florida. But imagine if Noel Coward had been travelling in the Wild West and hit on the notion of writing *Private Lives* as a Western, with Amanda and Elyot becoming cowhands who get on each other's nerves on a ranch in Nebraska (Amanda: *Oh, for heaven's sake, Elyot, stop playing the spoons on your chaps. It sounds ridiculous and you'll frighten the horses. Elyot: Extraordinary how potent chap music can be.*)

After two episodes of *Pole To Pole* (BBC1), you wonder whether the amiable Michael Palin agreed to undertake this five-month trip from North to South Pole as some sort of drunken bet, a bet he was beginning to regret. The route down the line of longitude of 30 degrees east was presumably devised partly for the fun of crossing Scandinavia, Russia, the Middle East, Africa and Antarctica, but also to capitalise on the success of Palin's documentary *Around the World in 80 Days*.

But although Palin is a companionable fellow-traveller, you do sometimes wonder what the point of it all is. Last time around, there was the coiled spring of a race against time to impose some momentum: beating the clock was the important thing, any spicy characters one met along the way were a

TV REVIEW

bonus. When you have plucked the route for no reason other than because it was there, and the only point of arriving is so that the film crew can say, "It's a wrap", or whatever film crews say when they have reached the South Pole, then you feel you should at least journey well. So far it has been a bumpy ride.

Because 12,500 miles is such a lot of ground to cover in so little television footage (this series runs to only eight episodes), Palin barely has time to do more than stay long enough in any one place to get his passport stamped before packing his holdall and moving on again. Not so much a history of the world in ten and a half chapters, more like ten and a half minutes.

We have already covered one quarter of the series. The first programme, shown a couple of weeks ago, had its rewards in proving to us what we always suspected: that living in the middle of sheets of snow and ice, so far away from civilisation that you cannot get BBC Radio 4 on FM or Long Wave, sends people slowly barking. There are grown men trying to avoid being gobbled by one of the 6,000 to 7,000 polar bears which have moved into the neighbourhood. There is a trapper named Harold Solheim, who has been living by himself in a shack in the middle of sheet ice, missing women a little but not enough to move home for the past 15 years, and making dog food out of dead seals: one assumes he killed them, but they may very well have died of boredom in this snowy waste.

There's a man in the Arctic Circle pretending to be the real Santa Claus, with a gang of multilingual elves answering 500,000 letters a year, 100,000 of them from Japan, where most people believe in Shintoism or Buddhism and think Santa Claus was crucified. And there's this Scandinavian light-house keeper who invites Palin for a cosy 28-day spell of fishing and "relaxing" on his remote light-house, if only Palin would send his cameraman back to BBC TV Centre. This is what results when daylight doesn't realise it's supposed to go off at night.

The second episode, last Wednesday, takes a more surreal tone and takes Palin to Leningrad, just before Leningrad changes back to St Petersburg. He is escorted round



Fellow travellers: Palin (up the Pole), Lenin lookalike (and vodka chaser), Whicker (jaded appetite) and the Sultan of Brunei (rich and snappy)

town by a Lenin lookalike and finds that trying to buy booze is harder than understanding nuclear physics, forcing him to conclude that "what a man needs after a long day buying a bottle of vodka is a bottle of vodka", a remark that hangs precariously between some sort of clever Keynesian make-work philosophy and a *Monty Python* paradox sketch scripted by Oscar Wilde.

The surreal tone is compounded by a stopover in Novgorod, which means "new town" but which is the oldest city in Russia. It is also twinned with Watford. Yes, that Watford. Then the train to Kiev breaks down in the middle of the countryside and everyone goes and jumps in a lake, not figuratively like British Rail advises, but literally, in the sense of organising a picnic, stripping down to your Y-fronts and going for a swim until the engine is fixed.

Compared to the traditional "Englishman Abroad" documentary style, Palin is probably post-modern to Alan Whicker's classical school. Last week, Whicker was whizzing off once more. To interview whom? Whicker has now settled into a reliable formula: his subjects are either famous or from Fort Lauderdale. If they can manage fame, Florida accents and a lilac hair rinse, then they are almost guaranteed airtime.

Even Whicker now admits that he is running out of people to interview who conform to his strict classical urities. But just as despair was about to set in, the Sultan of Brunei, the richest man in the world and the one chap Whicker has been desperate to bag for years, agrees to see him for *Whicker's World: The Absolute Monarch* (ITV). The strange thing is that

once he has got him, Whicker, as he merely nibbles at the sultan, which may satisfy his jaded appetite but leaves the rest of us still peckish.

Brunei is almost as exciting as the Arctic, having no alcohol, no bars, no concert halls, no discos, high humidity and heavy censorship. Even a Noel Coward play being performed by an expatriate acting troupe had to be submitted to the government censors, who returned it seven months later with 20 cuts: maybe they thought *Blithe Spirit* was a kind of illicit home-made liquor.

Still, at least we would now finally learn something about the \$10 million the oil-rich Sultan gave to Oliver North and the Contras. "That was all in the papers," the Sultan snapped informatively.

What then, about his rumoured stake in Harrods? "I never owned Harrods." Surely money was a horrid

burden, thought Whicker, as he asked: "Do you sometimes envy a simple man in the street, like me?" Actually, the monarch replied: "God wished me to be king. I have no complaints." cruelly killing all those dreams nursed by BBC and Channel 4 commissioning editors that any minute now a Whicker-envying Sultan would drop by to submit a proposal for a series titled *Asia on \$1 Billion a Day*.

"So this amiable ruler," Whicker whined, "must steer his course through a world of false smiles, for as we all know a rich man's jokes are always funny and everyone he meets sells out in a way." Very frank of you to say so, Alan.

Nowadays, the Englishman abroad's tour is not so much grand as bland. As Sinatra sang: "It's so nice to go travelling... but it's so much nicer, oh it's so much nicer to come home." And that was to New Jersey!

TV PREVIEW

• *Equinox: Zen on Wheels* (Sunday, Channel 4, 7pm) Japanese cars are no longer the awkward, tiny boxes they were 30 years ago. They are reliable, still priced to put competitors out of business, and their designers are becoming more adventurous than their European or American rivals. Mazda is now making a car incorporating three cameras which act as "eyes" and a computer for the "brain", enabling the car to adjust its performance to the driver's competence. Soon the Japanese will churn out saloons that are smarter than most western electoral candidates.

• *City of Strangers* (Sunday, BBC2, 10.10pm)

The start of a three-part series looking at a golden period of Hollywood, when California was still just a large orange grove and European writers were given refuge from oppression at home as well as fat salaries for spelling out scripts for the new movie moguls like Sam Goldwyn. The first episode, *Welcome to Paradise*, focuses on writers, directors, musicians and performers who landed in Los Angeles in the 1920s, such as Thomas Mann, Fritz Lang, Max Reinhardt, Bertolt Brecht and Arnold Schoenberg.

• *Animating Shakespeare* (Monday, BBC2, 7.30pm)

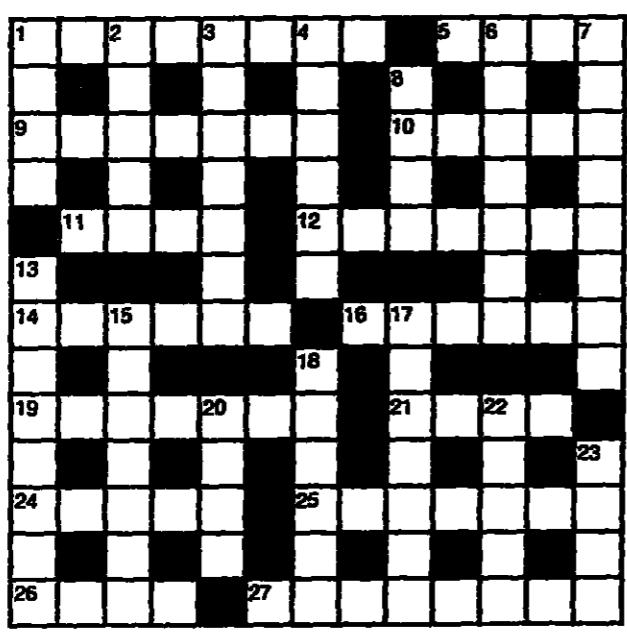
Raising the curtain on the new series of animated Shakespeare plays that begins the following week with *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, this introductory documentary, mostly filmed in Moscow, gives a taste of how the adaptations were manufactured by an alliance of Russian and Welsh animators. The magical products of this collaboration, truncated but still using lines from Shakespeare's text, are an eye-opener for those who have not realised just how innovative animation has become. Each of the six plays in the series uses a different animation technique. Already sold throughout the world as well as in schools television, this series will bring Shakespeare to a wider audience than ever before. One for John Fahey to tune in to.

• *Decision 92*

(Tuesday, BBC2, from midnight) If you found Peter Snow excitingly baffling during our own general election, when you knew roughly what he was talking about and why he might be waving his hands like a windmill, don't miss this performance. He will be interpreting the results from the presidential poll in America, which has an electoral system so complicated that Snow must already be sleepless at night with excitement. "We've got some fancy computer graphics and a giant map of the United States," he promises. Probably for Snow and US election addicts only.

J.J.

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2933



ACROSS

- 1 Suez Canal north port (4,4)
- 5 Music pitch symbol (4)
- 9 Partial sicc (7)
- 10 Remove hidden mine (5)
- 11 4th Zodiac sign (4)
- 12 Having dug out (7)
- 14 RC beads string (6)
- 15 Arouse sexually (4,2)
- 19 Extreme (7)
- 21 Destiny (4)
- 24 Tribal senior (5)
- 25 Watch (7)
- 26 Three feet (4)
- 27 Run through again (8)

DOWN

- 1 Short gust (4)
- 2 Vide stream (5)
- 3 Sleep (7)
- 4 Conforming (2,4)
- 6 Beirut state (7)
- 7 Combat (8)
- 8 Horizontal mine shaft (4)
- 13 Boring menial work (8)
- 15 Defamation (7)
- 17 Not particular (7)
- 18 Fish group (6)
- 20 Tasting sour (4)
- 22 Land (5)
- 23 Feeble (4)

SOLUTIONS TO NO 2932
ACROSS: 1 Cut loose, 7 Chasm, 8 Super Bowl, 9 Per, 10 Ouch, 11 Orange, 13 Yellow, 14 Offend, 19 Poetry, 20 Scum, 21 Err, 23 Uncertain, 24 Fix up, 25 Dramatic.
DOWN: 1 Custody, 2 Topical, 3 Opre, 4 Scouse, 5 Happy, 6 Smart, 7 Clarify, 12 Cover up, 15 Enchant, 16 Demonic, 17 Tracer, 18 Deify, 19 Proxy, 22 Pram.

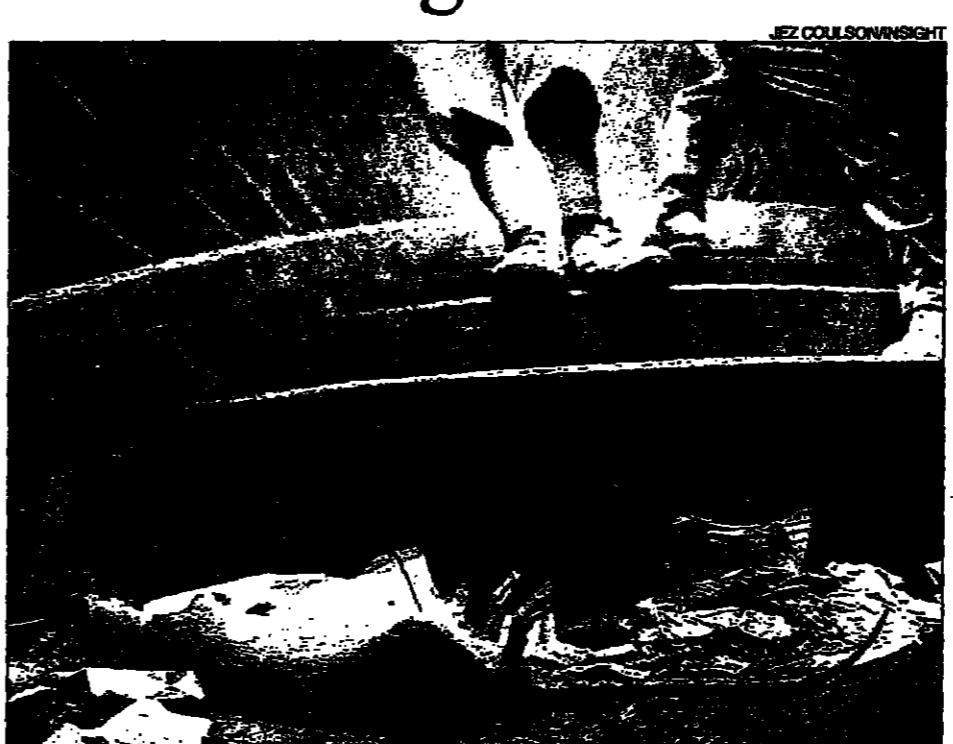
WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

This position is from the game Svidlerin - Akopian, Niksic 1991. The position looks very innocent and the presence of opposite coloured bishops would seem to indicate that a quick draw was on the cards. However, Black's next forced resignation. Send your answer on a postcard with your name and address to: *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday next week will win a Batsford chess book. The answer and the winners will be printed in *The Times* on the following Saturday.

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Fear and loathing in London



Caitlin Moran feels the despair of poverty on the mean city streets

dance. Every day, having to step over the cold and the crying and the abused, because to give out your heart for one minute would mean collapsing and sinking under the wide, wide current of despair that runs through the streets that seeps into the underground and rides the night trains until close-down.

It must be very hard to get a sense of perspective, with all the blank-eyed millions showing about, all elbows and shoes and snarks. You don't wanna look anyone in the eyes, for fear of what you might find in there. And pretty soon you can't see any further than the buttons down the front of your jacket... cute little buttons, concentrate on the minutiae and you're safe. Unbreakable fascination with belt-buckles and shoes and the sex-lives of minor celebrities — it's all light-hearted fun and you don't need to think. Gonna get me a glossy magazine between my face

and the guy sitting opposite. Gonna buy a weighty tailor-cut coat to come between the them and me own self.

Of course, the helium of cash lets you float around another layer of London entirely. With jacket pockets inflated with credit cards and cash, you don't need to touch the pavements; all wrapped up and cosy-like in a wool-lined Visa coat. And then London could be fun. Each street would be stacked up with the poetry of lust (Oh, I wanna battery-operated thingy. I gotta have a silk one of them), every day would be a series of heavy, indulgent sessions swishing down the street in my block-heeled shoe to have lunch with all my chums at the Restaurant du overwhelming. It's so sweet there — they have a glass tank of chets and you just point out which one you want!

Yeah, London could be fun if I could pay out to avoid the poor parts, the thin parts — the

places where the calcified bone shows through the worn-out skin; the places where the pavements heave with all the shit that seethes under them; where the rats are teaching the children to speak and play games with the traffic.

London has a Third World living inside of it, like a guilty secret, like a scrabbling pregnancy, like a tumour. The split-faced, thug-flattened beggars. Blank-eyed veterans, crying and coughing over wet clothes. The Pakistani girl bleeding from an eye-wound at Euston, who was so shocked that anyone would talk to her, would ask her if she was OK. You'd have to tamme around your soul to live in London: just to stop it from breaking every day.

All right, all right, enough of the bleeding heart already. But for Britain to be centred in a city so awash with the gristle and ground-on emotion, and a rotting smell of despair — where every sound is a round-blown out vowel of hate — it's just... ahhh. I don't know. I lost all my words around 2.30am. I think I just need to sit on the porch roof with this cigarette; watch the day get its act together behind the scrub, hills of Rural Land.

Maaaybe it's because I'm a Loondzon, that I love London sooooo...

GUILTY SECRET: James Herbert

"Until two years ago I would work through the morning, have lunch and get back to the study by about 2.30. Then one day I happened to switch on the television after lunch, and I discovered those wonderful old English black and white films shown on Channel 4 each afternoon. I am afraid I got hooked. I usually look in the paper to find out what year the film was made and then I work out how old I was at the time."



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